TOKYOPOP®

EAST COAST RISING

BECKY CLOONAN

1

Volume 1

By

Becky Cloonan

TOKYOPOP®

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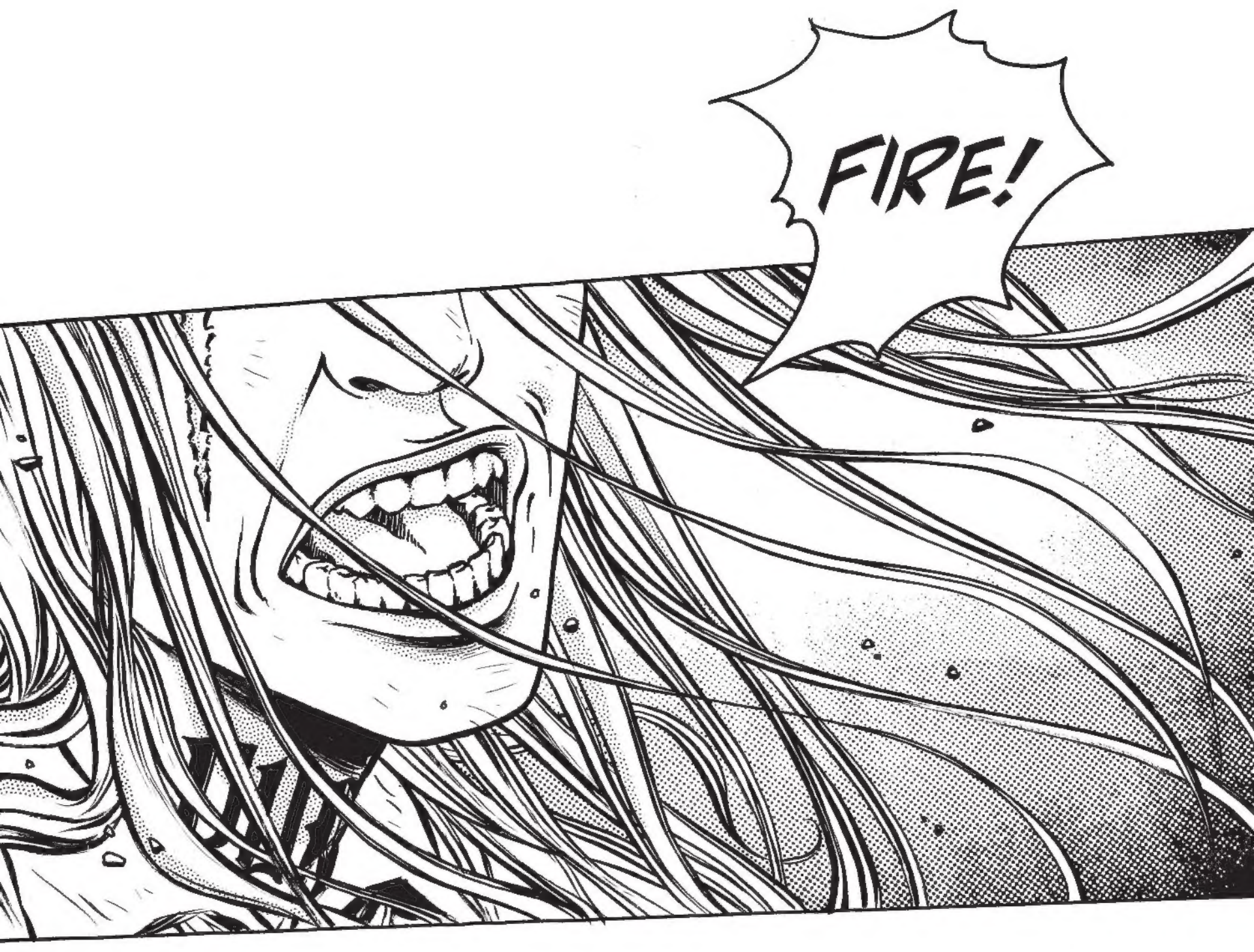
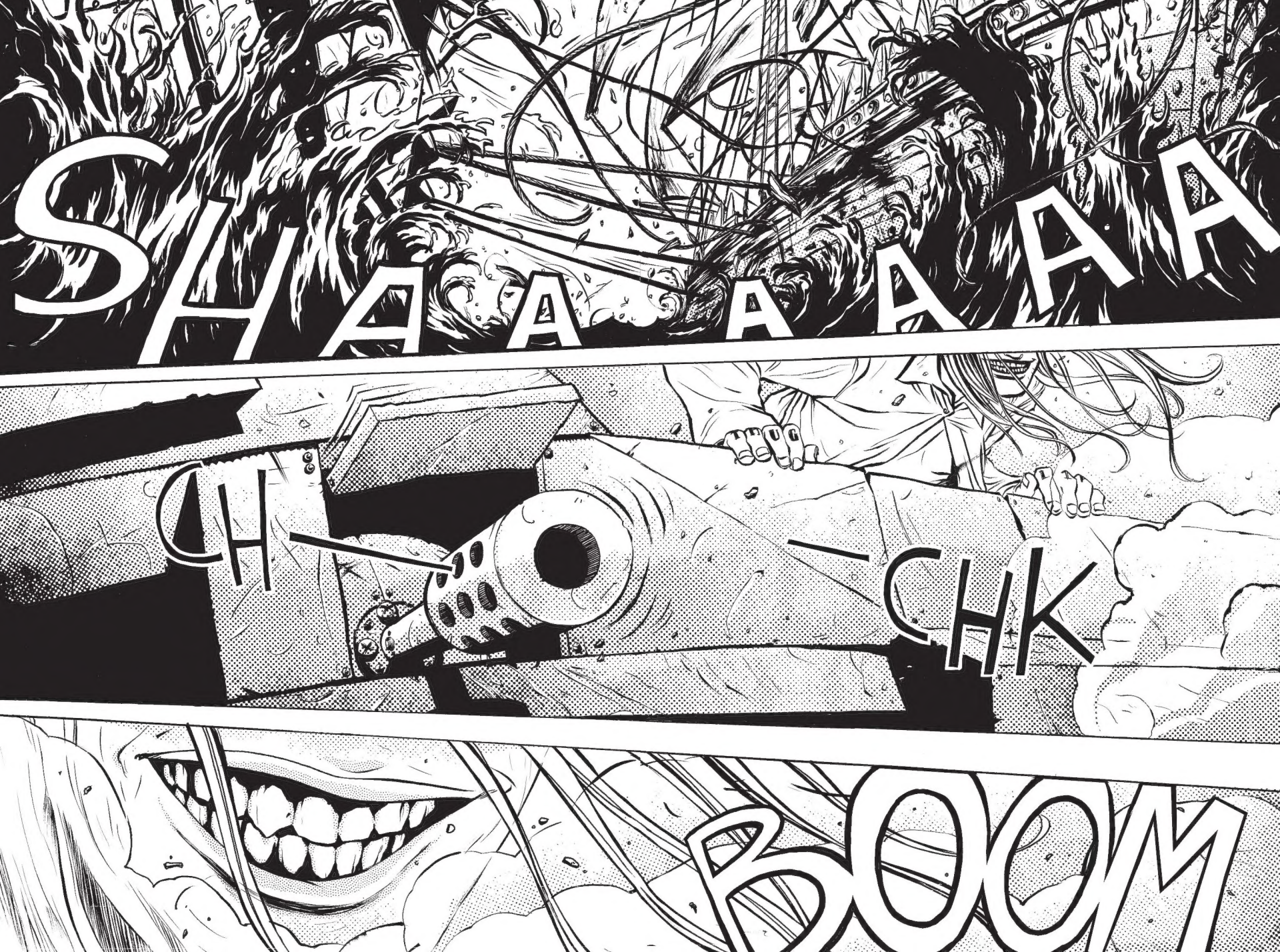
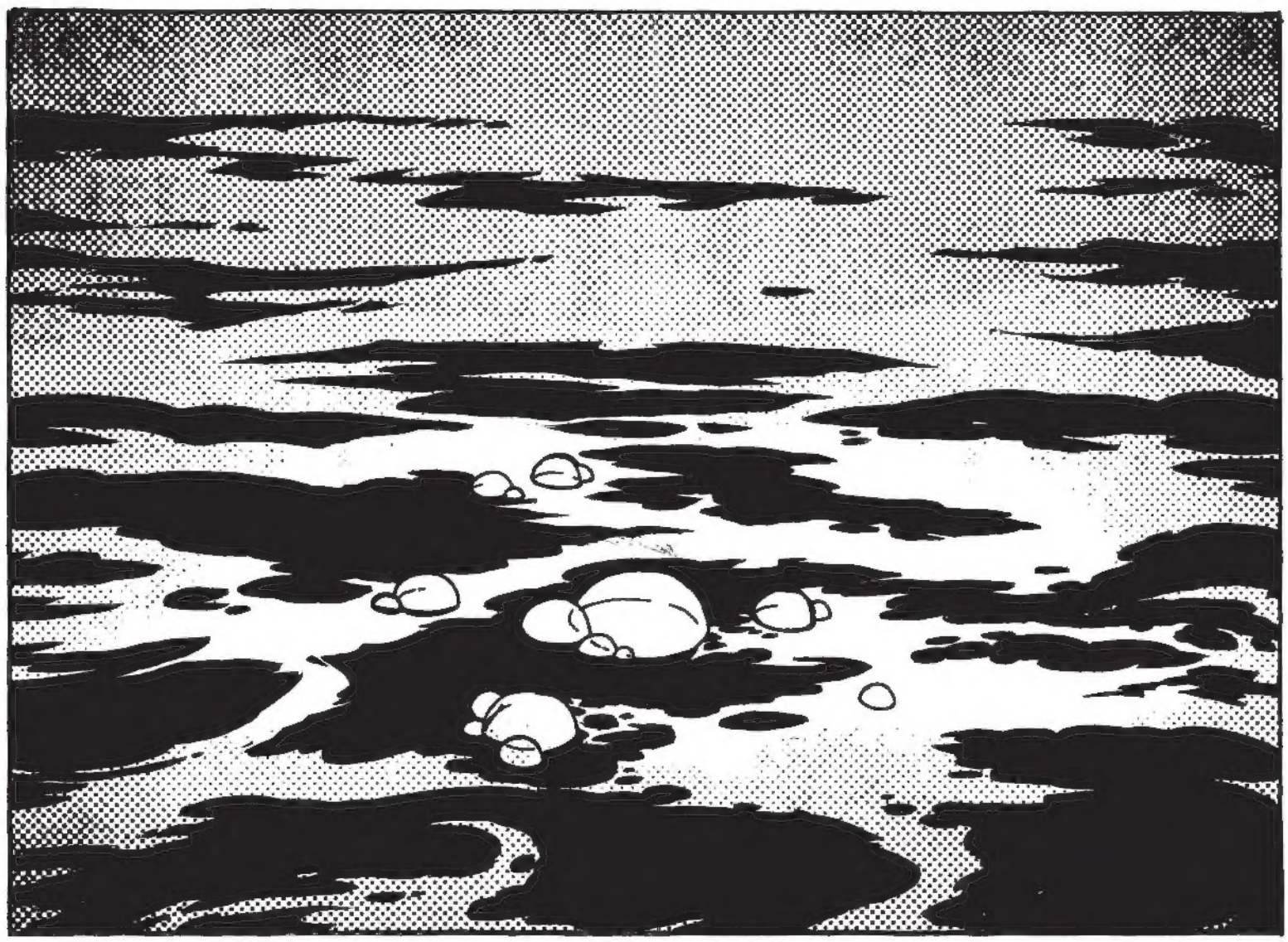
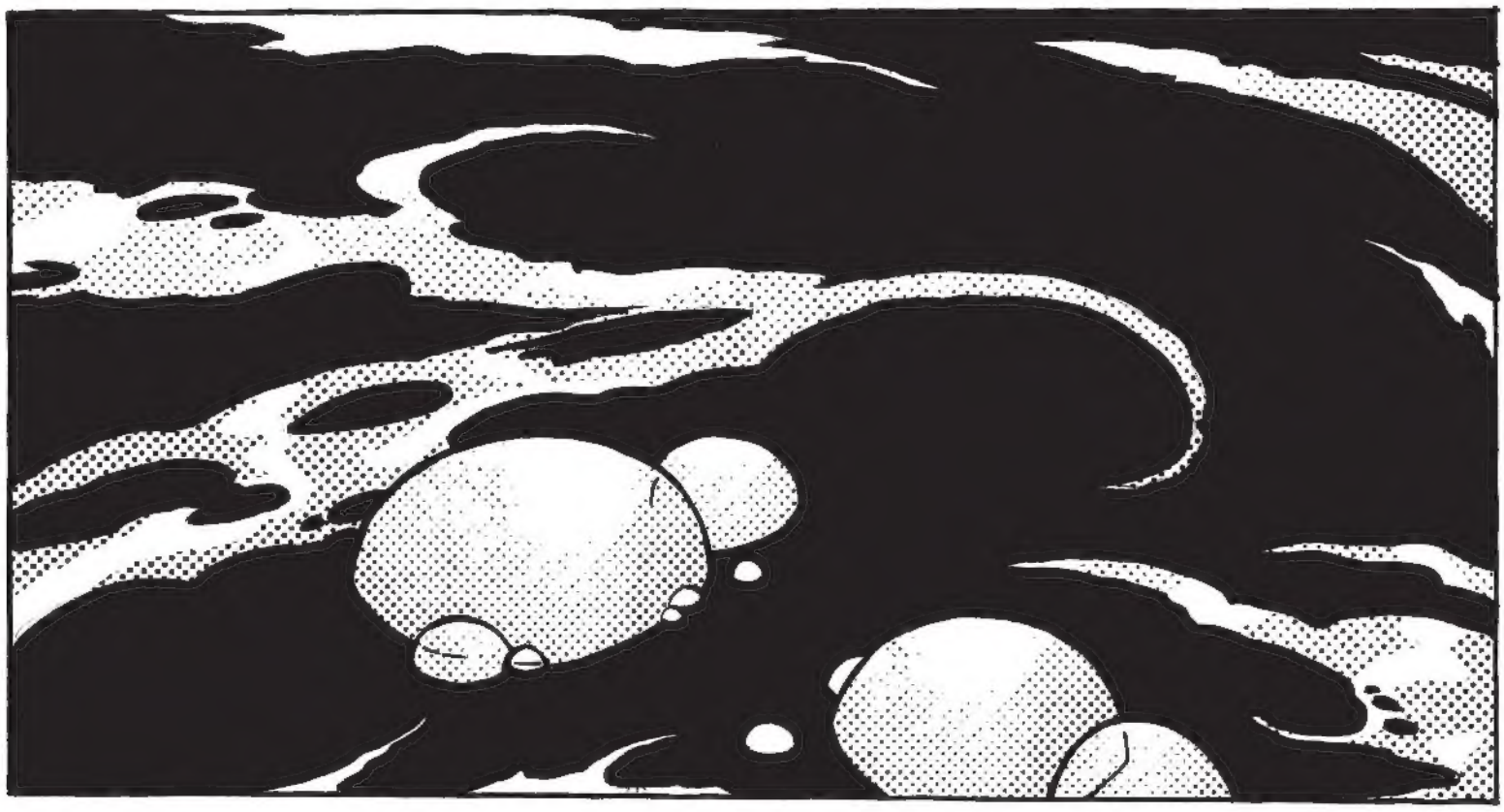

FIRE!

BLAM
BLAM
KCHHH
SPL


SHAAAAAA
CHUG
CHK
BOOM



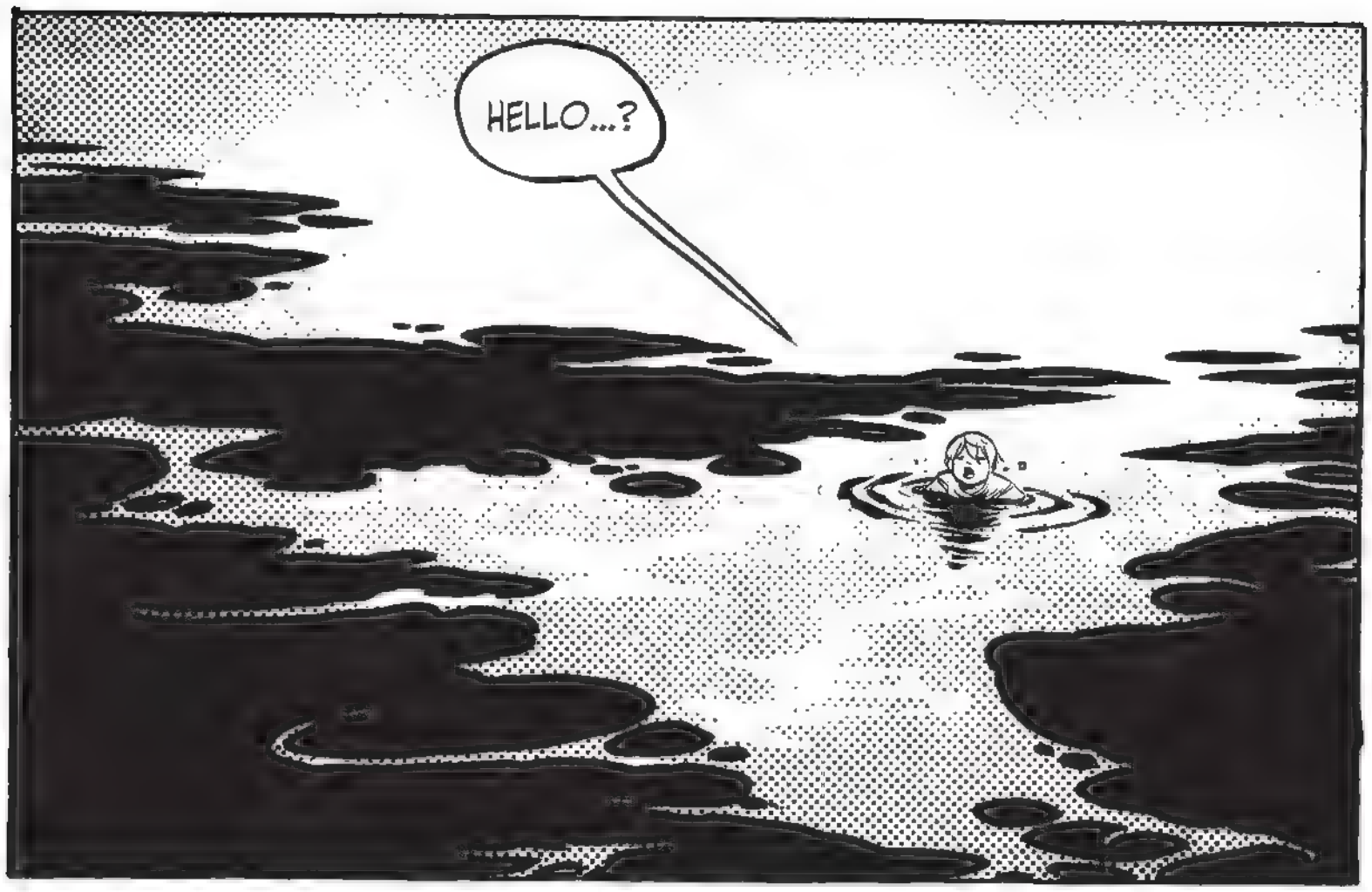


GASP!

SPLASH

AGH!

COUGH!
COUGH!


HELLO...?

HELLLLOOO?!

SSSSHH

SSSSHH

HMM?

SKSHHH—
EEE...

TSSHH
AAGH!!

HISSS

AAUGH!

HISS

WHOA! EASY THERE, MR. SNUGGLES.

GOOD BOY.

I-IT'S NOT GONNA EAT ME, IS IT?!

NOT IF YOU COOPERATE. SEE, I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT I THINK YOU HAVE.

SOMETHING SMALL, ROLLED UP, STUCK INSIDE A BOTTLE AND TIED TO YOUR BELT.

HA HA! LOOK AT HIS FACE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BBLLBB BBLLBBLL BBLLBB

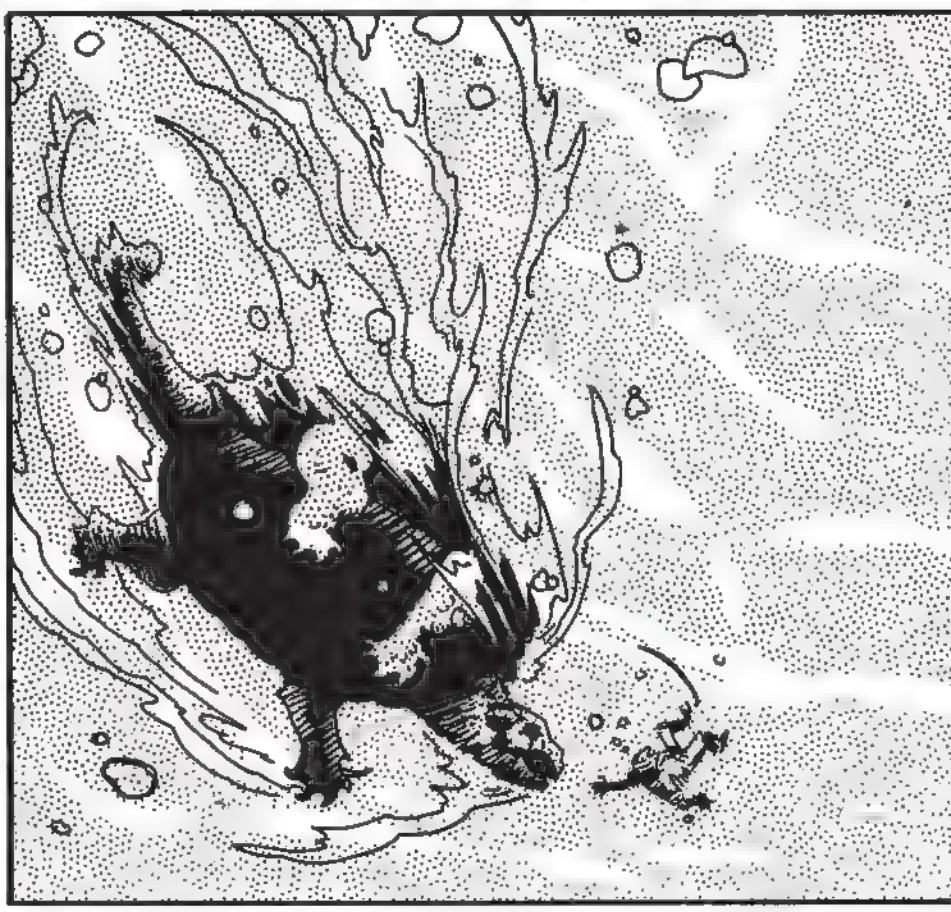
REG, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS KID?

I'M HUNGRY.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S GET TO BUSINE-

AGH!

DOWN!
SNORT



SSKISH

STUPID KID. CAUSING ALL THIS TROUBLE.

COUGH COUGH!

SWIPE

THIS WAS ALL I REALLY WANTED. NOW, THAT WASN'T TOO HARD, WAS IT?

SO...YOU'LL LET ME GO NOW?

SURE.

HISS
AAGH!
URK!
FIP
SLASH

SHAAA
GOTCHA!
KSS-SHHH!
GO!! FOLLOW THE THIEVING ROTTERS!

MOVE!!

8

HOOLLLEEE-

KRSH!

HEH!

TUG

TUG

HEY!

YOU OKAY BACK THERE?

SLAAA

UUUAAAAH!!

SHH

YOU'RE MINE, LITTLE MAN.

KSSHT

KKSHHH

MUST GO FASTER!

AAAAAHH!!

CARE-FUL!

SWAP

WHOOA!!

KSSHT

SSH

RMBL
RMBL
YASHOOM

KSHH

NNG!

SSHHHH

LA REVANCHA IS WAY OUTTA RANGE. WE'LL NEVER CATCH 'EM WITHOUT THE HOBOKEN.

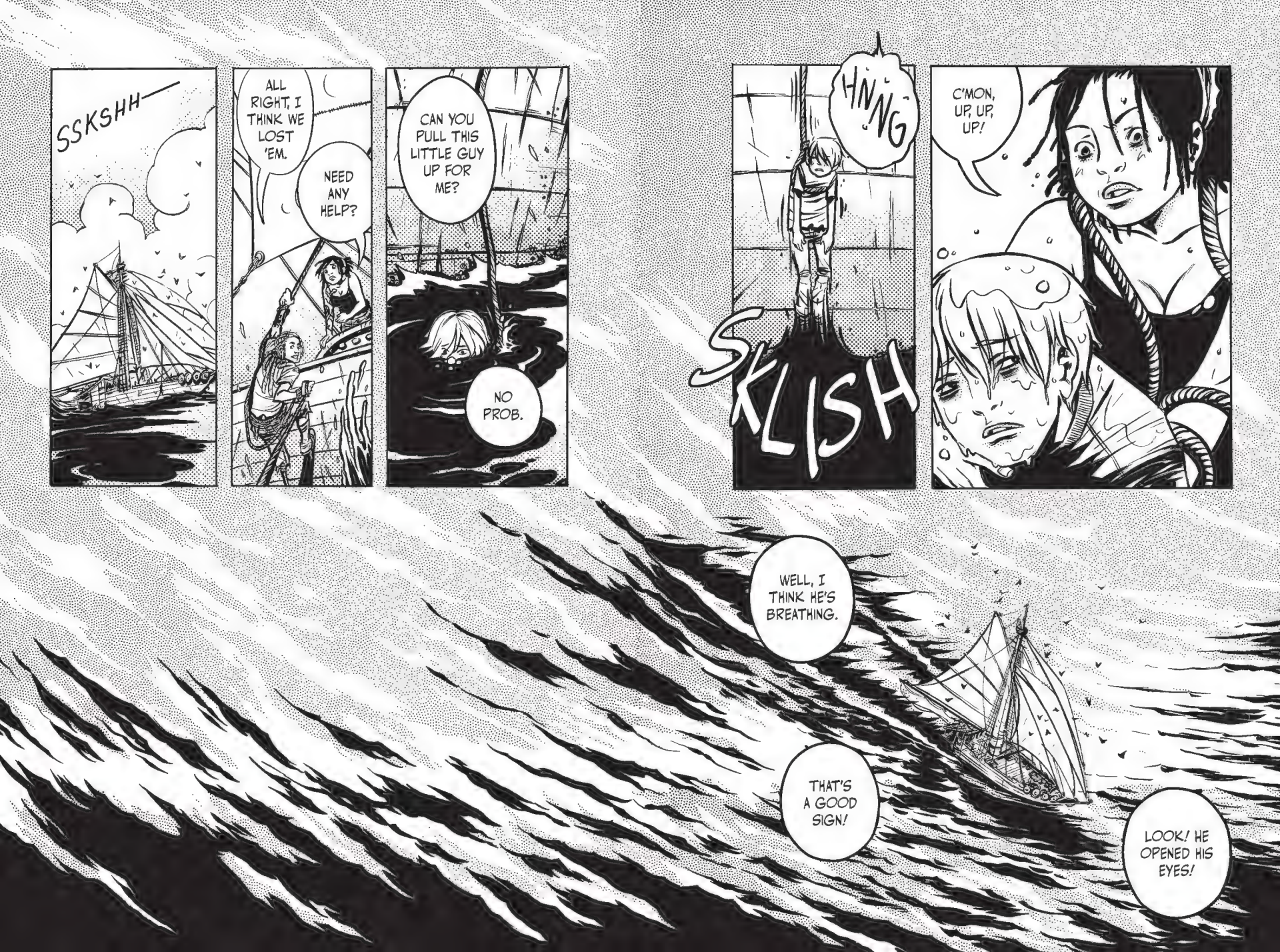
CURSE IT ALL! THEY'RE SO *FAST!!!*

STILL, WE GOT WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR.

PFFT

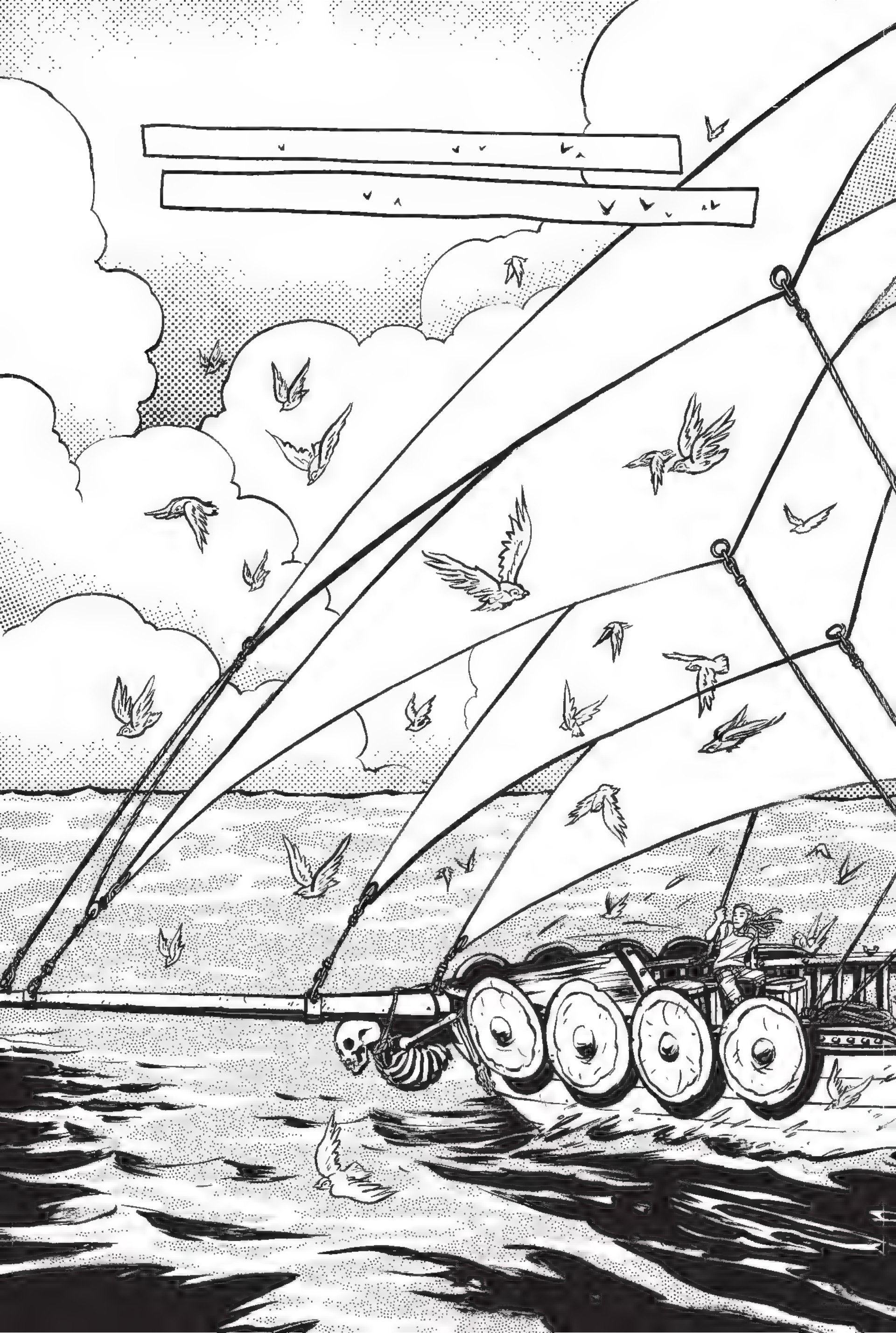
STAY OUTTA JERSEY !!!

BUNCHA BUMS.


SSKSHH—
ALL RIGHT, I THINK WE LOST 'EM.
NEED ANY HELP?
CAN YOU PULL THIS LITTLE GUY UP FOR ME?
NO PROB.
HNNG
SKLISH
C'MON, UP, UP, UP!
WELL, I THINK HE'S BREATHING.
THAT'S A GOOD SIGN!
LOOK! HE OPENED HIS EYES!

HEY!
HE'S JUST A KID!
ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MY... NAME...?
UH...



MORNIN', SUNSHINE!

UUUNG...

COO COO

COO

COO

CAN YOU SIT UP?

COO

COO

COOO

COO

COOO

WHO ARE YOU?

THE NAME'S DEATHSNAKE, AND THIS IS MY NIECE, EL!

WHAT DO WE CALL YOU?

ARCHER.

WELL, ARCHER, THE CAPTAIN WANTS A WORD.

'KAY.

WATCH YER STEP.

WHOA...

LESSEE...

YOU'VE ALREADY MET ABBY...

HI.

ABBY IS OUR RESIDENT BASS MASTER.

AH...

HEY, DEATH-SNAKE!

THAT WAS SOME SMART STEERING BACK THERE!

AND THIS IS THE BOSS, CANNON-BALL JOE.

WELL, WELL... WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

HIS NAME IS ARCHER!

WELCOME ABOARD!

THANKS...

YOU'RE NOT GONNA...

EAT YOU? NAH, WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS!

JERSEY CAN BE A DANGEROUS PLACE...

I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CREWMATES.

...

TELL YOU WHAT. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOUR DESTINATION WAS AND WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE AFTER OUR NEXT DROP-OFF.

BUT-BUT WHY CAN'T I JUST SAIL WITH YOU GUYS? I CAN PULL MY WEIGHT!! I CAN!

UM...

I WORK HARD!

BRM

BRM

WELL...I SUPPOSE YOU CAN RIDE WITH US TO MANHATTAN...

DRAKE IS ALWAYS SAYING THAT HE NEEDS ANOTHER HAND IN THE KITCHEN.

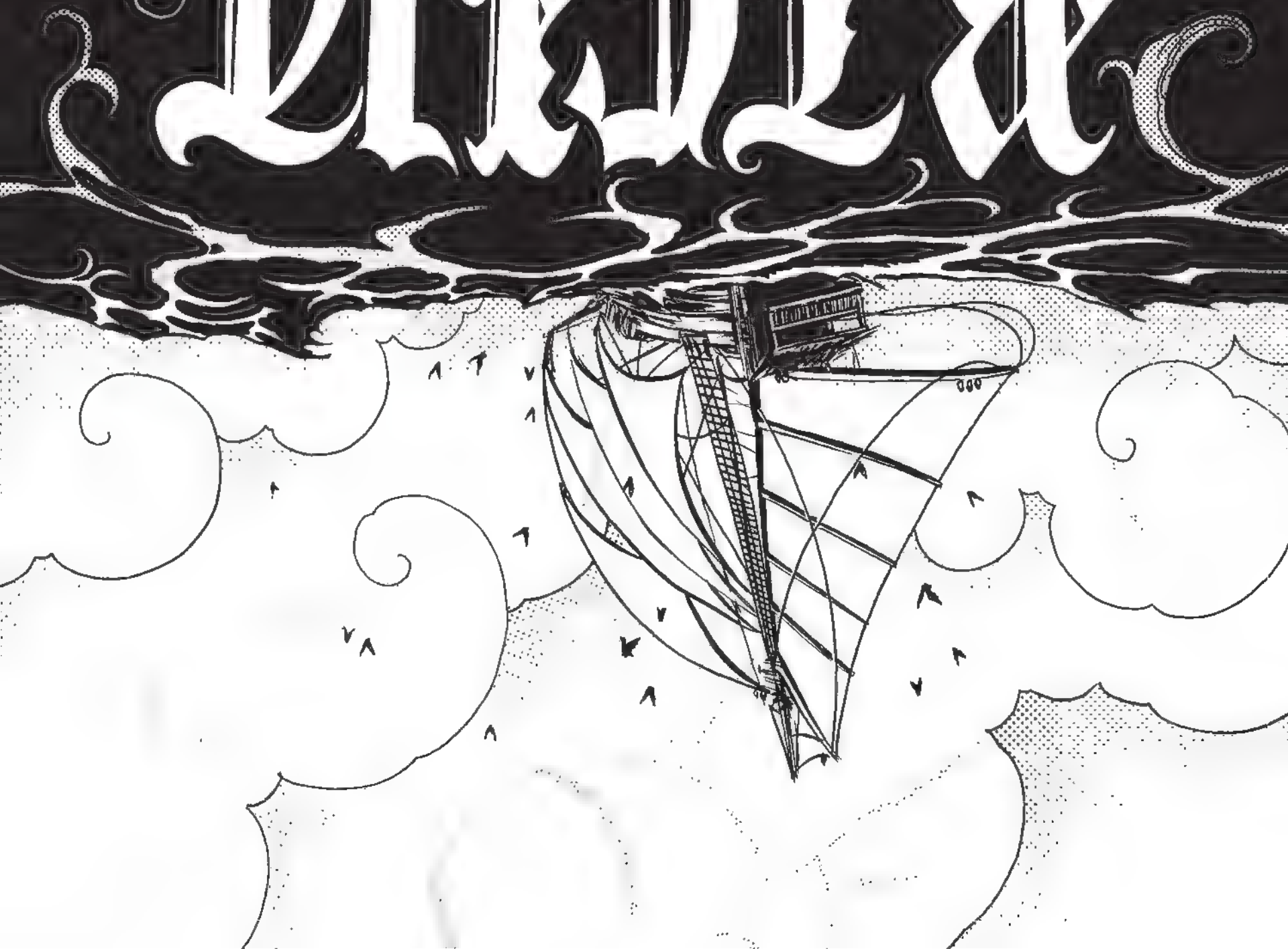
LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE WORTH YOUR SALT.

SWEET!

WHEN DO I START?

HEH...

IDOL DEATH



OKAY, EVERYONE! I GOT BIG NEWS, SO LISTEN UP!

WE HAVE A NEW ADDITION TO OUR FAMILY.

HE'LL BE SAILING WITH US AS FAR AS MANHATTAN.

SAY HI, ARCHER!

UM...

HI.

I DON'T THINK YOU'VE MET MATH OR PRIVATE YET.

MATH IS OUR NAVIGATOR. SHE PLOTS ALL OF OUR VOYAGES.

HEY.

THERE YOU ARE! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, MAN?

PRIVATE'S OUR MECHANIC.

HE HELPED ENGINEER LA REVANCHA TO BE THE FASTEST SHIP ON THE EAST RIVER.

DING

NOW WHERE IS DRAKE?

I THOUGHT HE'D BE HERE BY-

JUST PREPPIN' FOR DINNER! IS THIS THE KID YOU PROMISED ME?

KINDA SKINNY, AIN'T HE?

WE'LL HAVE TO PUT SOME MEAT ON THOSE BONES!

ALL RIGHT, ARCHER, I'M LEAVING YOU IN DRAKE'S CAPABLE HANDS.

THANKS, JOE!

IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST HOLLER.

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

KITCHEN'S DOWN-STAIRS!

HERE YA GO, SLICK.

FWAP

TIE

TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE.

LOOKIN' GOOD. DINNER'S IN AN HOUR. YOU READY TO COOK?

BBQ KING

YES, SIR.

ON TONIGHT'S MENU: SURVIVAL OMELETS.

SURVIVAL?

YOUR FIRST TASK IS TO BEAT ALL THESE EGGS.

YES, SIR!

HUU!

CRACK

HMM...

HA!

HU!

HOH!

HM?

UH-OH!! DRAKE!

WE'RE OUT OF EGGS! WHAT DO I DO?!

THE SEACHIX NEST IS JUST PAST THE MAST!

RIGHT.

CAN YOU DO ME A FAV AND THROW SOME FOOD OUT FOR THE LITTLE GUYS?

NO PROB!

HMM...

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

HA HA HA!

HEY, YOU GUYS HUNGRY?

COME AN' GET IT!

SSSSHHH

HA HA HA!

HEE!

HEY YOU! GET BACK HERE!!

HA HA HA!

THERE YOU ARE!

HOLD STILL...

GOTCHA!

WHUM

OOF!

WHOA! SLOW DOWN THERE, KILLER!

UH...

HAH!

I'M JUST KIDDIN' AROUND. HOW DO YOU LIKE LIFE ON LA REVANCHA SO FAR?

WHAT'S THE EMERGENCY?

PRETTY GOOD. I'M FEEDING THE SEACHIX.

GOOD WORK!

SO, WHERE IS EL?

IT'S HER NAPTIME!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN SAILING WITH JOE?

ABOUT FOUR YEARS.

I KEEP TRACK BY COUNTING HOW OFTEN I'VE SAVED HIS BUTT!

IS THAT HOW YOU GOT THOSE SCARS?

THESE?

I FELL DOWN SOME STAIRS. NOW GET BACK TO WORK!

I'LL SEE YOU AT DINNER!

OH, AND MAKE SURE DRAKE DOESN'T SERVE EGGS AGAIN TONIGHT!

TOO LATE.

SIGH...

mm..

~THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO LET HIM STAY?

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT. YOU WERE HIS AGE WHEN YOU CAME ON BOARD.

THAT'S NOT MY POINT!

I MEAN, THE WHOLE THING IS SUSPICIOUS!

WHAT WAS THAT MERCHANT SHIP DOING IN THE BLACK WATERS SO CLOSE TO JERSEY?

JEEZ, HE'S JUST A KID!

YEAH, WELL... I GUESS ~

hmm

MURMER

UHH HH

HHH...

SSSH

HHH HHHH HH...

AAH!

AAUGH

HEY, HEY!! WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS?

AAAH!!

UUUAHH...

OH!

I SEE YOU'VE MET GRIPP!

GRIPP ?!

HE'S NOCTURNAL. WE DON'T SEE TOO MUCH OF HIM DURING THE DAY. HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE CROW'S NEST.

UHHH...

IT MUST BE TIME FOR HIM TO FEED.

WH-WHAT DOES HE FEED ON?

PROBABLY EGGS.

EGGS?!

OH NOES! I TOTALLY FORGOT!!

DRAKE IS GONNA KILL ME!

AH, YOUTH.

DRAKE, I GOT THEM! I GOT THE EGGS!

GREAT!! PUT 'EM ON THE COUNTER!

HMM...

YOUR NEXT MISSION IS TO DISTILL FIVE GALLONS OF WATER!

THE KNOB ON THE LEFT CONNECTS TO A SIPHON. JUST MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T LEAK!

OUCH!

OH YEAH, WATCH THE HEATING ELEMENT ON THE BOTTOM!

'KAY.

SQUEAK
SQUEAK

GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
SIGH
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB

COME AN' GIT IT!!

OMELETS A LA ARCHER!

SMELLS EXCELLENT!

THAAANK YOU, DRAAAKE!

BBQ

UGH! I SMELL EGGS!

C'MON, EL, JUST THINK OF ALL THE PROTEIN!

BLAH!

AWW, NO WAY, MAN! PROTEIN *RULES!*

I'D RATHER EAT TRILOBITES.

WAIT, I THINK THERE *ARE* TRILOBITES IN THIS...

HEY, ISN'T THAT ARCHER KID MISSING?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

HE'S NOT IN THE OMELET, IS HE?

OH!

AWW, LET HIM SLEEP.

HE'S HAD A LONG DAY.

VSSS-
HEEERE FISHY, FISHY...
SPLISH
PEEK

COUGH!

UMM... ABBY, RIGHT?

YOU'RE UP EARLY.

SO ARE YOU.

I'M DOING LAUNDRY.

WELL, FISHING IS BEST IN THE MORNING.

THE FISH ARE MORE ACTIVE.

PLUS, YOU BEAT THE MID-DAY HEAT.

I SEE.

I GUESS EVERYONE IS SICK OF EGGS.

WORD.

...

SPLISH!

TUG TUG

WHOA!

KSH

OMG! WHAT IS IT?!

UGH! A GUTTER-BACK.

THEY'RE SCAVENGERS. TOO BONEY TO EAT, AND THEY TASTE PRETTY NASTY.

HUH?

WELL, I GUESS YOU *COULD* EAT THEM, IF YOU WERE, LIKE, FIENDING FOR FOOD.

ACTUALLY, WE FOLLOWED A SCHOOL OF GUTTERBACKS TO FIND YOU!

THEY'RE A TELLTALE SIGN OF DANGER.

WHEN YOU SEE THEM IN SCHOOLS, IT USUALLY MEANS THERE'S BEEN A BIG SHIPWRECK OR SOME-THING.

TOSS

AND SINCE WE WERE SO CLOSE TO JERSEY, JOE THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T HURT TO CHECK IT OUT.

SPLASH

WISH

SO, YOU DONE HANGIN'?
YEP.

DO YOU WANNA TRY?
SURE !!

OKAY, HOLD IT LIKE THIS...
IS THIS OKAY?
YEAH, NOW PULL BACK AND LET THE LINE GO!

NICE!

PLIP PLIP PLIP

SO...

UH...

THANKS FOR SAVING ME THE OTHER DAY.

HUH?

OH, WELL, JOE DID MOST OF IT. I ONLY PULLED YOU UP.

STILL, I MEAN... THANKS...

BUMP
Sigh

UH-OH!
YOU GOT ONE!
WHADOO I DOO?!
PULL !!!
I'M TRYING!
KA-KA-KKA-KA!
ha, ha!

JOE...

JOE?

YEAH?

IF WE STAY THIS COURSE, WE RISK RUNNING INTO THE JERSEY PIRATES AGAIN.

BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD THE TIME TO CIRCLE NORTH AROUND THEM.

HMM.

I THINK OUR BEST ROUTE IS TO HEAD SOUTH AROUND JERSEY, JUST NORTH OF SHAOLIN.

AS LONG AS THE SKIES STAY CLEAR.

SEE, THAT'S ANOTHER PROBLEM.

PRIVATE TOLD ME THAT A STORM IS BREWING TO THE WEST.

AH... EXCUSE ME...

I'VE FINISHED THE LAUNDRY AND SWABBED THE DECK.

SWEET.

HEY, CAN I TALK TO YOU ON DECK FOR A MINUTE?

WHAT ABOUT THE STORM?

KSSHHH

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MATH.

BUT-

JUST STAY OUR CURRENT COURSE FOR NOW.

ARCHER, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ON THAT SHIP WHEN IT SANK, WERE YOU?

YOU STOWED AWAY.

YOU KNEW?

WELL, YEAH.

IT'S KINDA OBVIOUS. I MEAN, YOU CAN BARELY DISTILL WATER.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL STILL DROP YOU OFF IN MANHATTAN. I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT SOMEBODY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

NOT REALLY. I RAN AWAY A LONG TIME AGO.

THERE'S SOMETHING KEEPING ME OUT HERE. I HAD A MAP...

A MAP TO A SUNKEN TREASURE DEEP IN THE HEART OF QUEENS.

VENTI'S TOMB.

PEOPLE SAY THAT IT'S ONLY A LEGEND, BUT I KNOW IT EXISTS. I'VE BEEN THERE.

I'VE SEEN IT.

YOU'VE ACTUALLY BEEN THERE?

YEAH. IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

THE TOMB OF VENTI.

A HOARD OF FORGOTTEN TREASURE HIDDEN BEYOND THE GATES OF BED-STUY, BENEATH THE TUNNELS OF THE L TRAIN...

RELICS FROM THE DRY AGE...

THE SHIP I WAS ON WAS HEADING TO QUEENS, BUT NOW THAT THE MAP IS GONE, I DON'T FEEL I CAN GO BACK.

JOE, I NEED YOUR HELP. I'LL SPLIT THE TREASURE. NO FUNNY STUFF. I PROMISE.

SO HOW DID YOU FIND THE MAP IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I GOT IT FROM MY FATHER... IT'S BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

I CAN'T LET IT FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

AND LEE'S HANDS ARE DEFINITELY THE WRONG ONES.

ARCHER, WE HAVE A DEAL! TONIGHT WE SAIL FOR THE GARDEN STATE!

WHA– *REALLY?!!*

HEADS UP, MATH!

WHAT?! ARE YOU CRAZY?!

THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN THE WEATHER! I'LL FILL YOU IN LATER!

SET A DIRECT COURSE TO JERSEY!

INSANITY!

IF THIS GOES SMOOTHLY WE CAN BE IN AND OUT IN A LITTLE OVER AN HOUR.

A MAP TO VENTI'S TOMB, HUH? I GREW UP HEARING STORIES ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW.

SO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS KID?

YEAH, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

PLUS, LEE WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THAT MAP. IT'S GOTTA BE WORTH SOMETHING.

YOU'VE GOT A POINT. BESIDES, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE LAST STEALTH MISSION.

IT'S ABOUT TIME I PAID OUR FRIEND LEE A VISIT.

SKSSH

THERE'S NO WAY I'M COOKIN' TONIGHT.

SHHH

LET THEM GET THEIR OWN D–
HUH?
Coo Cooo Coo

COMFORT-ABLE? WELL, THAT MAKES ONE OF US.

I HATE JERSEY.
WHY YOU HAVEN'T FLOWN FROM THIS PLACE IS BEYOND ME.
THERE'S THE SMELL, BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
IT'S HOW EVEN ON A GOOD DAY...
...YOU ALWAYS GOTTA WATCH YOUR BACK.
BUT I GUESS YOU'RE KINDA USED TO THAT, HUH?

HOTH
POK
FACENECK
BEST
HEATS
OIL
ZOMG

I CAN BE OUT OF THERE IN THIRTY MINUTES.

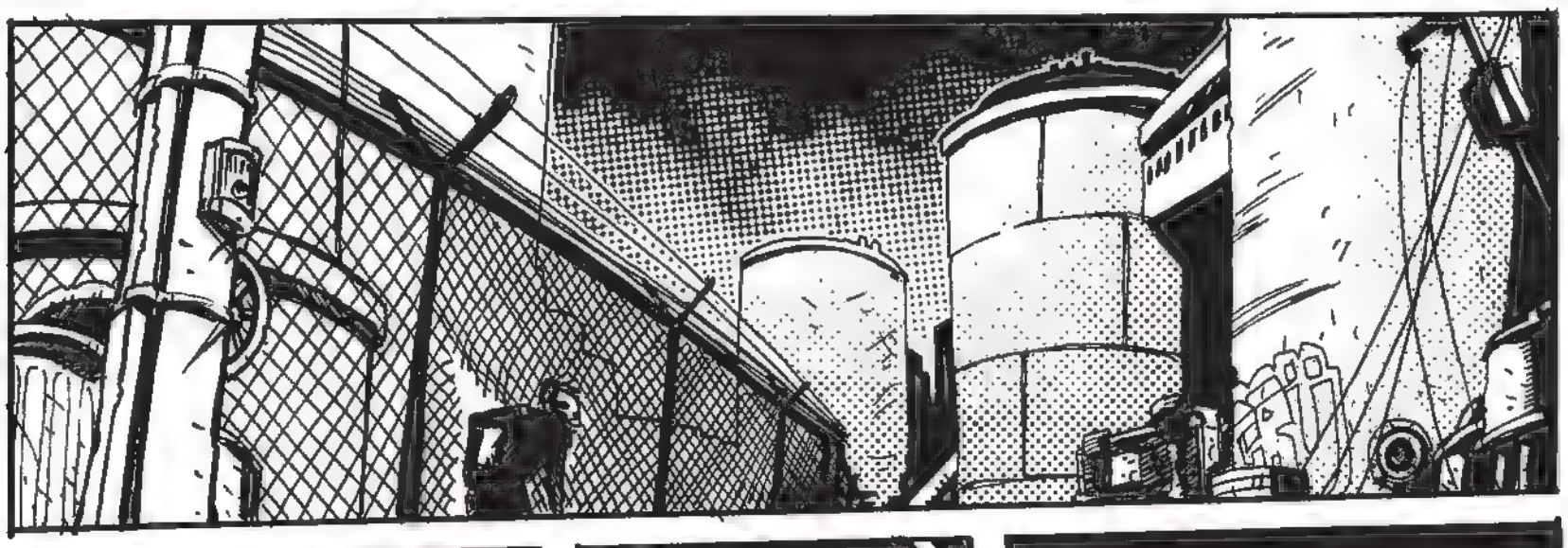
IF I TAKE MORE THAN AN HOUR, HEAD SOUTH. IF I'M STILL ALIVE, I'LL MEET YOU IN SHAOLIN IN TWO DAYS.

THIS IS GONNA BE SO MUCH FUN.

GOOD LUCK, DEATH-SNAKE.

YOU TOO, JOE.

SHOO!
bzzzzz



NOTHING'S CHANGED. SAME LANDMARKS. SAME SECRET HIDEOUTS.

SAME SMELL.

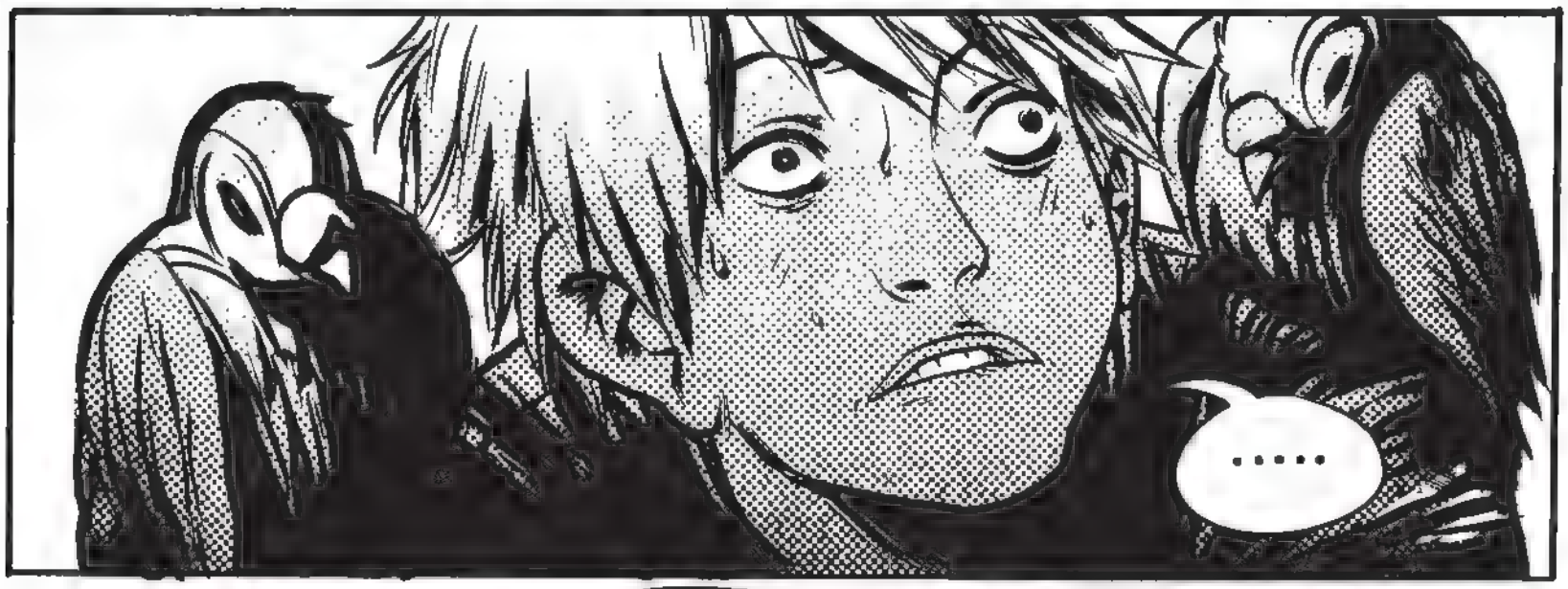
HUP!

LEE, YOU IDIOT. SHOULDA MOVED YOUR STASH!

BE!

HEH HEH HEH!

SSSHH


.....

AH...
AHH...
AHH....!

ARCHER!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
WHAT?!
...

C'MON...

SSSH

LOOK!

DEATH-SNAKE!!

SKSH

HE MADE IT!

THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE!

SOME-THING BIG...

SOMETHING WHAT? HOW BIG?

CAN YOU SEE IT, GRIPP?

NO, BUT I CAN HEAR IT!

RUMBLE

brm
BRA-KA!
AH!
JOOOOEEE!! WHAT DID I TELL YOU?!
HOLY COW!
ABBY, HELP DEATHSNAKE! GET HIM BACK ON BOARD!
GOT IT!
UAAGH!
I SAID...
...STAY OUTTA JERSEY!!
KING
LISTEN UP!! WE'RE RUNNING "T" FORMATION! LET'S HUSTLE!!
HUT! HUT!!

HIKE!!!

SKLISH

HNNG!

rrrrg

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, BABY! DID I MISS ANY OF THE ACTION?

WHY DO I BOTHER?

AH!

WHATUNK

WATCH IT!

HOLD YER FIRE!

THEY'RE OUT OF RANGE!

RIGHT ON, PRIVATE! WE'LL LOSE THEM ON THE OIL REEFS!

WHOA! WITH THIS WIND, WE CAN OUT-MANEUVER THE HOBOKEN!

SHAA KSHH

KKHHHH

SKKHH

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

CUT THE DIRTY THIEVES OFF AT THE PASS! HEH HEH!

JOE!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE THIS!

SWEET JESUS.

BABADABADABADA

READY!

STEADY !!

SHAA

BLAM GO! BLAM

CH!

GET DOWN!

EVERYBODY!

HOLD ONTO YER BUTTS!

KLNGG

RRRKK

SCKSHH

SOMEBODY CUT THE ROPE!!

HNNG...

YEAH!

OH, NOT AGAIN.

HA-HA-HA!

GNNNN

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

BOOM

BOOM

KSHIK BOOM

NICE SHOT, OTTO!

WHAT YOU PAY ME FOR, CAPTAIN.

A HARPOON?

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE JERSEY?

AT LAST...

...THE INFAMOUS REVANCHA IS MINE!

ARE YOU *INSANE?!*

HUH!

HEH.

I LOVE WHEN YOU ASK ME THAT!

WAGH!

JOE!! QUIT DRIVING LIKE A *MANIAC!*

SKSHAAA

WHO IS...?

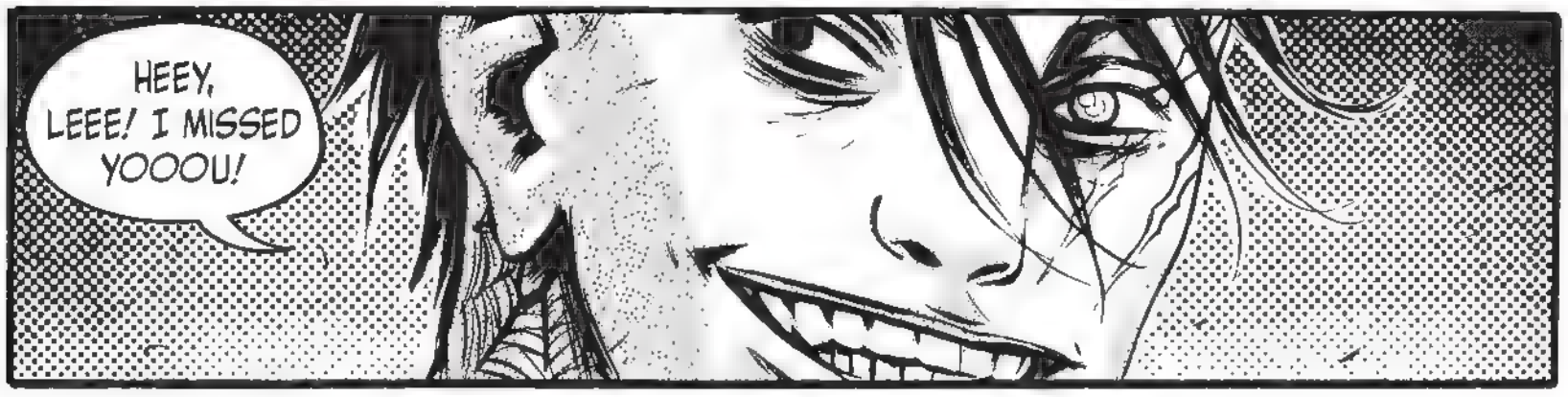
SKISH

SNAP

HEH HEH...

DEATHSNAKE?!

WHAT?!
HOW IS HE EVEN ALIVE?! THIS SUCKS!


HEEY, LEEE! I MISSED YOOOU!

MISSING SOMETHING? HA HA HA!

YOU SHOULDA CHANGED YOUR HIDING SPOT, SUCKA!

DAAGH!

OH SNAP

OH NO, HE DIDN'T!

KEEP TURNING! THEY CAN'T HOLD US MUCH LONGER!

I CAN'T! WE'LL BOTTOM OUT ON THE REEF!

VRRR

KCHK

KCHK

THEY'RE REELING US IN?!

LEE, THE LEFT GUN IS JAMMED!

AGAIN?! DIDN'T WE JUST FIX THAT THING?

SHOULD WE BRING OUT THE DRILL CANNON?

NO!

I WANT LA REVANCHA IN ONE PIECE! THAT SHIP IS TOO FAST TO WRECK!

TENG

TING

WE HAVE TO BOARD!! ZEUS! REG!!

DO IT NOW!!

I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER ASK.

SHF

VSSS

WHAT IS THIS?!

HOME INVASION!!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.

AH!

SNAP

SSS
TIME OUT!!
OH, WAIT...
SKSHH
NO WAY, DEATH-SNAKE!
THE ONLY TIME THAT'S OUT IS YOURS.
OH, YEAH?
OH, YEAH!
HUH?
VISH
HOW ABOUT A FREE TICKET TO LOOSE TOOTH CITY?!
KRAKAK

ALL RIGHT! WHO WANTS SOME?!

THEY'RE MULTIPLYING!

WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S LIKE A MILLION OF THEM!

LORDA MERCY! LEE HAS A CLONING MACHINE?

HAHA

HA! IMAGINE LITTLE LEES RUNNING AROUND!

WHAT A NIGHTMARE!

WHO

AH!

HUH?

ABBY!
BIFF

hm?
BIRD... FOR THREE!
VSHH!

KLONK!
HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES!

ABBY!! ABBY, ARE YOU OKAY?

ARCHER, DID YOU THROW THAT BRICK?!

SHA

WOW! GOOD ARM!

YEAH...

KSH

THANKS...

I LIKE YOUR ARM TOO.

MMM!!

MMM...

UGH.

OOF!

INK

HA! YOU TOOK THAT BRAT TO SCHOOL!

WHA-?

BAD

HE'S NOT A BRAT!!

ENOUGH TALK!! BRING ME THE MAP!

AND BRING ME DEATHSNAKE!

SHAP

GIVE IT UP, JOE!

AHHH

CH!

LA REVANCHA IS OURS!

VLISH

TAKE YOUR BROKEN BOTTLE...

...AND YOUR BAD ATTITUDE..

...AND GET OFF MY SHIP!

UUF!

KRAKT

JOE!!

THIS GUY IS REALLY BIG!

HERE, MATH!

CATCH!

GRAB

THANKS!

KISH

OOF!

SKSS

UGH!

YARG!

WHAP

HMM...

IF I WERE A TREASURE MAP, WHERE WOULD I BE?

RIK

RUSTLE

HUH?

WHO-

AIIEEE!!

FLAP

FWAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FWAP

FLAP

THWAP
K-O

EL!!

OH MY GOD!

OH...

THERE YOU ARE!
HI, DEATH-SNAKE!
I WAS WORRIED SICK! C'MON!

UP! LET'S SEE IF THEY NEED HELP SWABBING THE DECK!

ARR!

HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU SCALP TODAY?

TWELVE!

RAD!

HEY, JOE! I'M–

WHOA!! BABY ON BOARD!

MISS

WHOOOA!

HAH!

HOW DOES MY KNUCKLE SANDWICH TASTE?!

CRITICAL!

IS MATH DRIVING?

NAH, IT'S ON AUTO-PILOT.

I DIDN'T THINK LA REVANCHA HAD AUTOPILOT.

GOOD POINT! I'LL GET ON THE WHEEL!

SPLASH

I CALL SHOTGUN!

WHAT'S UP WITH THE BIRD, DRAKE?

COO.

HIS NAME IS SACHET! I THINK HE LIKES ME!

WHOA!

HOLD ON!

BRRM

YAH!

JOE, LEARN HOW TO DRIVE!

HEY, GUYS! HOW'S THE WATER?

COLD, I BET!

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!

REGGIE, IS THAT YOU?

SHUT UP!

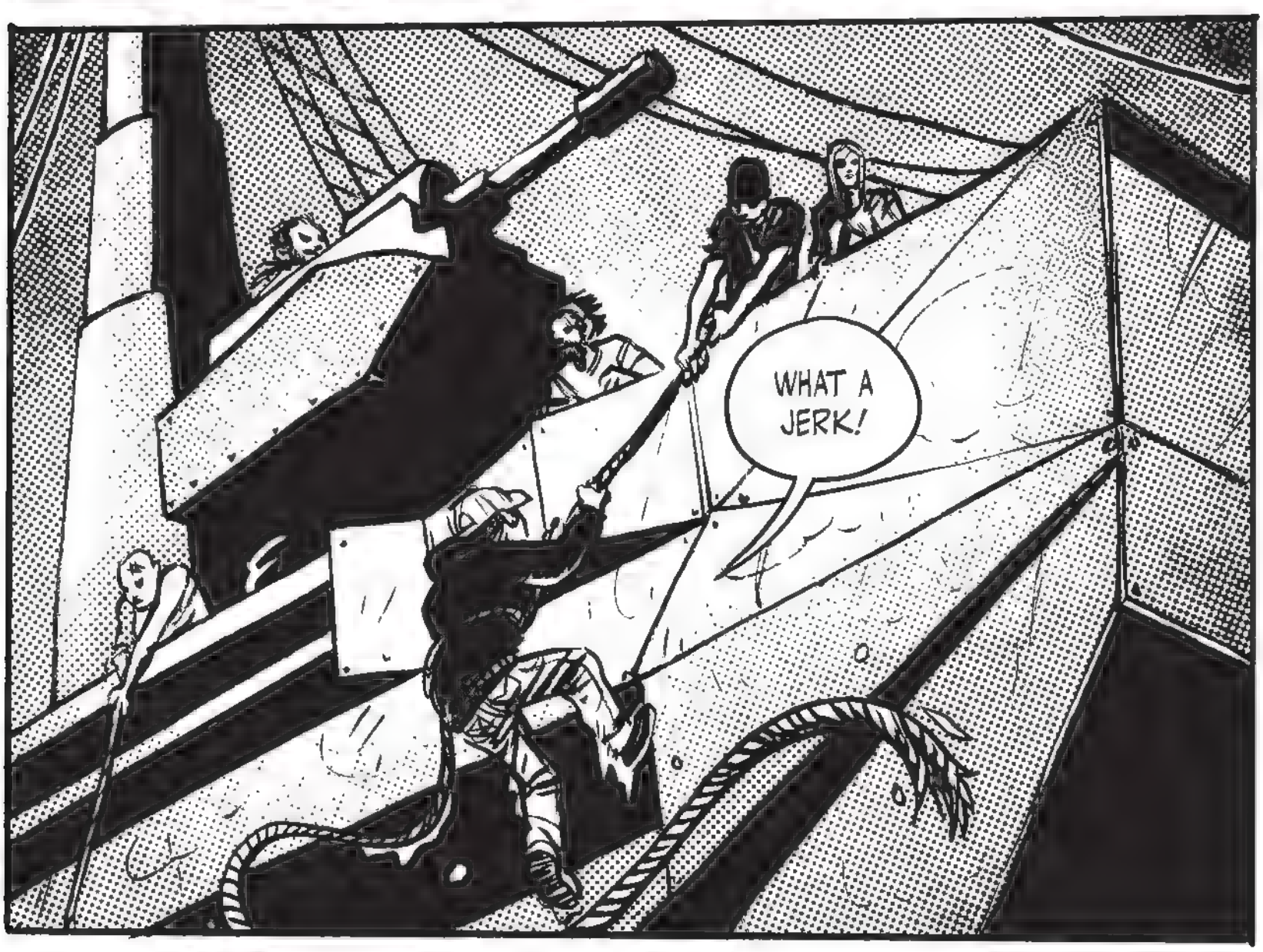
AGH!

OH MY GOD!

ARE YOU STILL WEARING THAT FILTHY HAT?

SHUT UP!!

YOU'RE SUCH A JERK, DEATHSNAKE!
HA HA HA!
SHHHH
SKLSH
SERIOUSLY.


WHAT A JERK!

WELL, THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM!

WHOAAA!

WE'LL TELL VENTI YOU SAID HI!

AND SEND YOU A POST-CARD!!

GO BACK TO RAIDING BARGES, LEE!

NERDS!

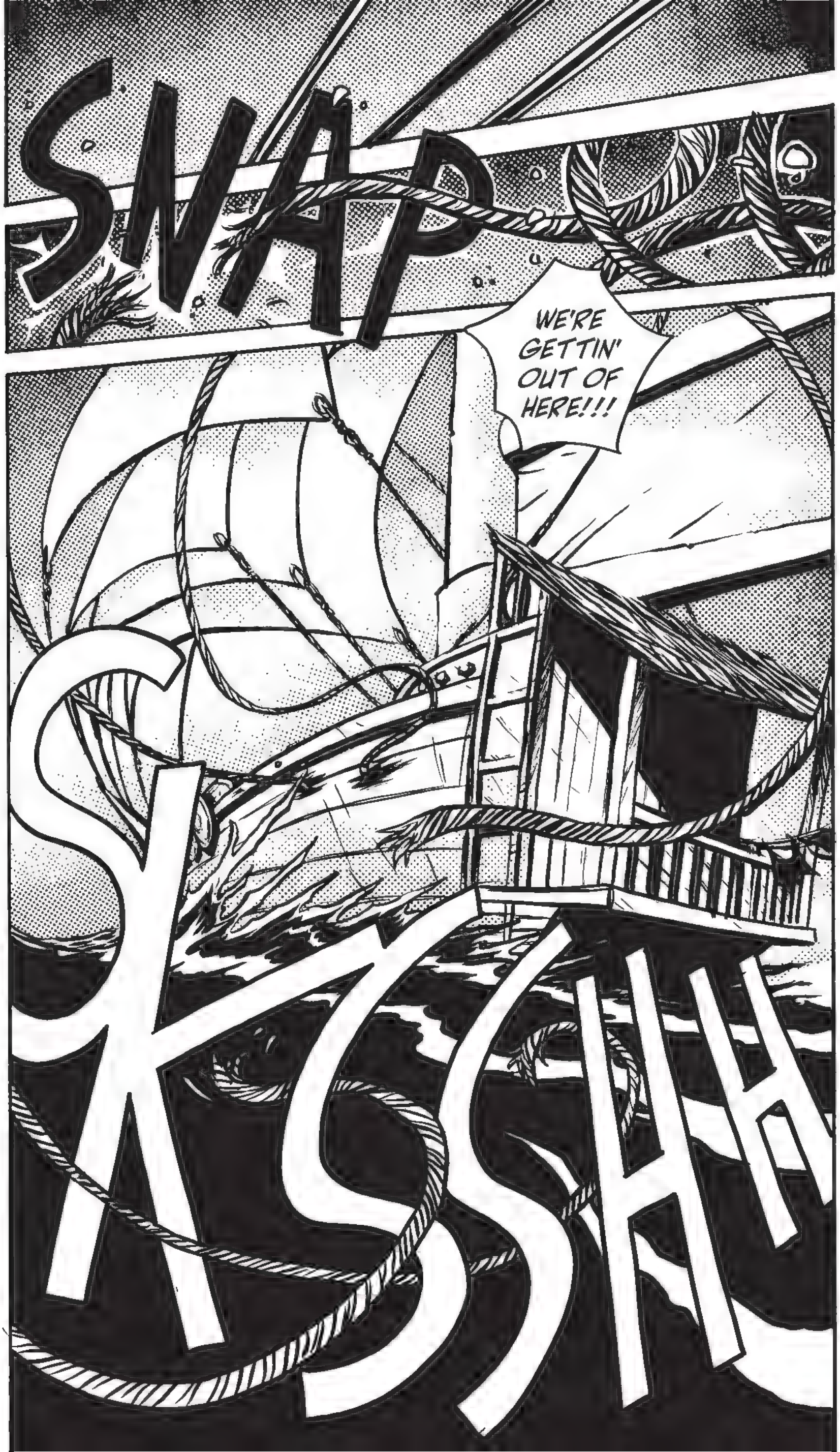
ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE BACK TO YOUR POSTS!

PRIVATE, DRAKE, PATCH ANY SERIOUS LEAKS!!

FWOOSH

SNAP

rrrrrrrrk


SWAP
WE'RE GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!!!
SMASH

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY AGAIN!

NO, WAIT!

MIDAS, ARE THE ANKLOGAME HOOKED UP?

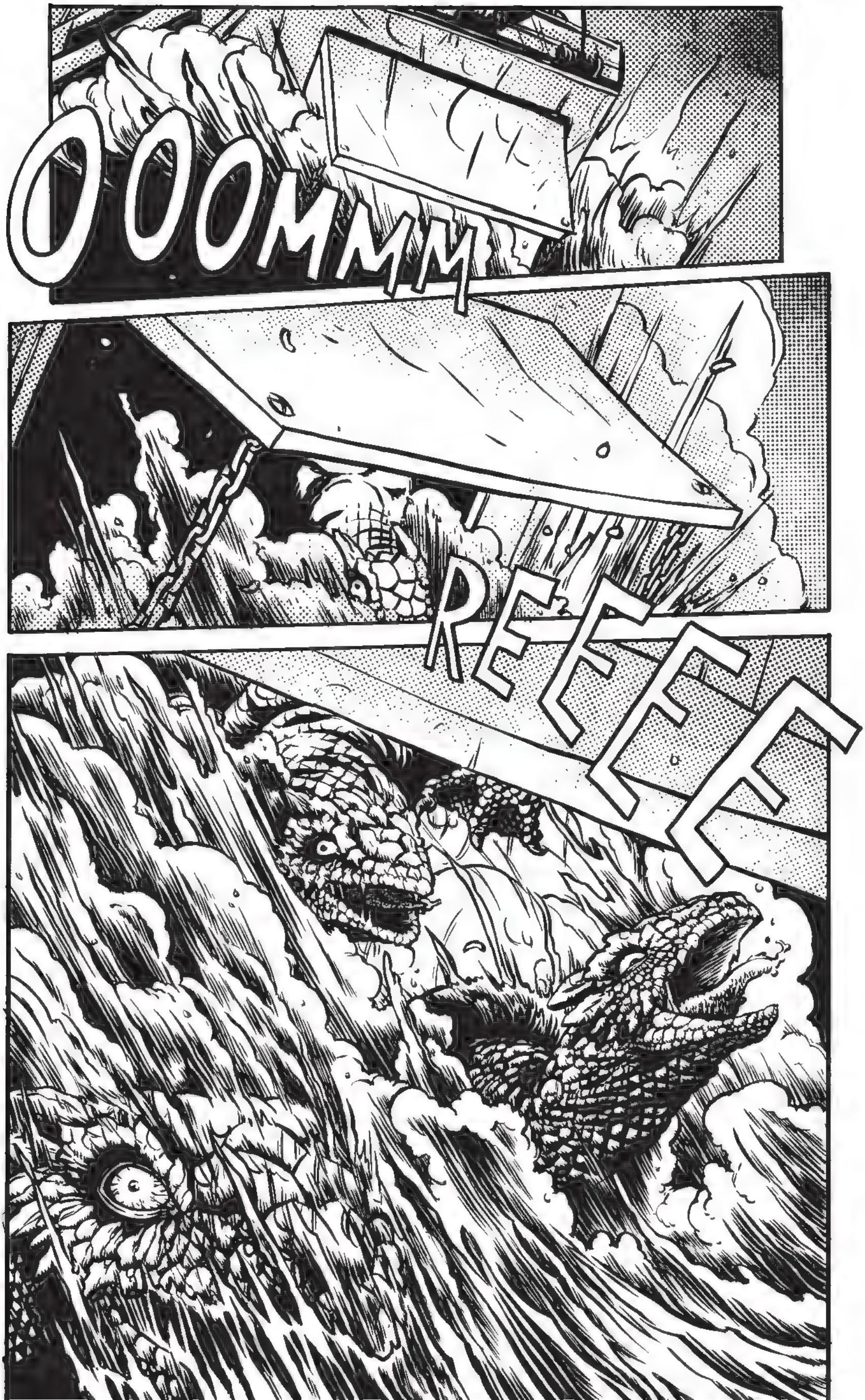
YES.

GOOD! RELEASE THEM!!

MOST DEF.

I MEAN, UH... YUS, MUHSTAH.

I LOVE WHEN YOU SAY THAT.


OOOMMM
RRRR

BEHOLD!
THE HOBOKEN!!!
ISN'T SHE GLORIOUS ?!
MY GOD!
WHAT A MONSTROSITY!
OH HEY, I FOUND YOUR LEG.
SWEET! I WAS WONDERING WHERE IT WENT.
KSH

CRASH

WATCH-WATCH-WATCH THE POLE! CAREFUL!!

I KNOW! I KNOW!

JEEZ, DEATHSNAKE! I'M TRYING TO DRIVE!

DRIVE FASTER!

WHAT?! THEY'RE GAINING ON US? *IMPOS-SIBLE!*

PLEASE JUST DRIVE!

BUT-BUT... *TURTLES!*

THEY CAN'T KEEP UP THIS PACE FOR LONG!

WE'LL LEAD THEM INTO OPEN OCEAN, CATCH A SOUTH WIND AND OUTRUN THEM!

BRILLIANT! *NOW DRIVE!!*

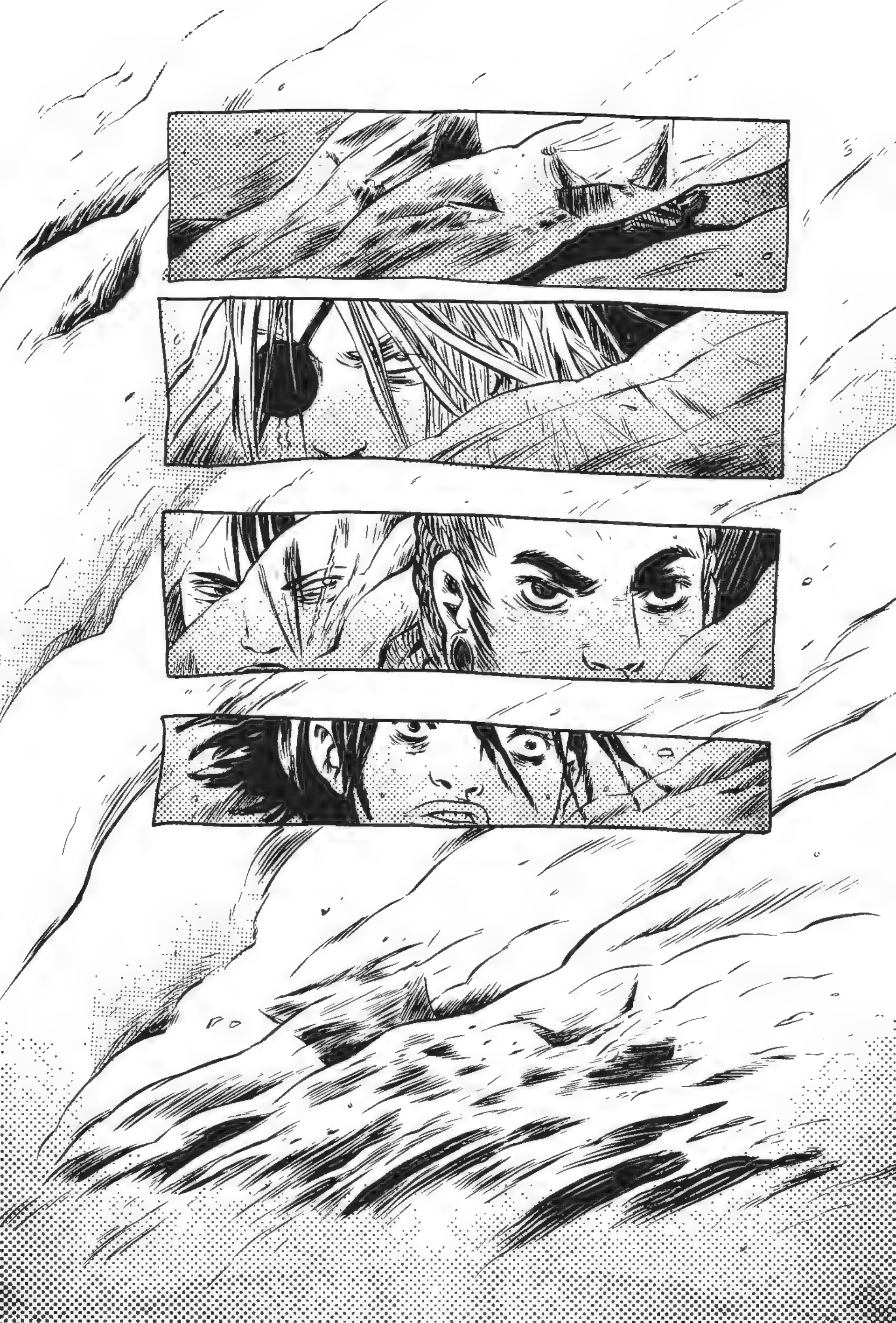
KCHHHHHHH

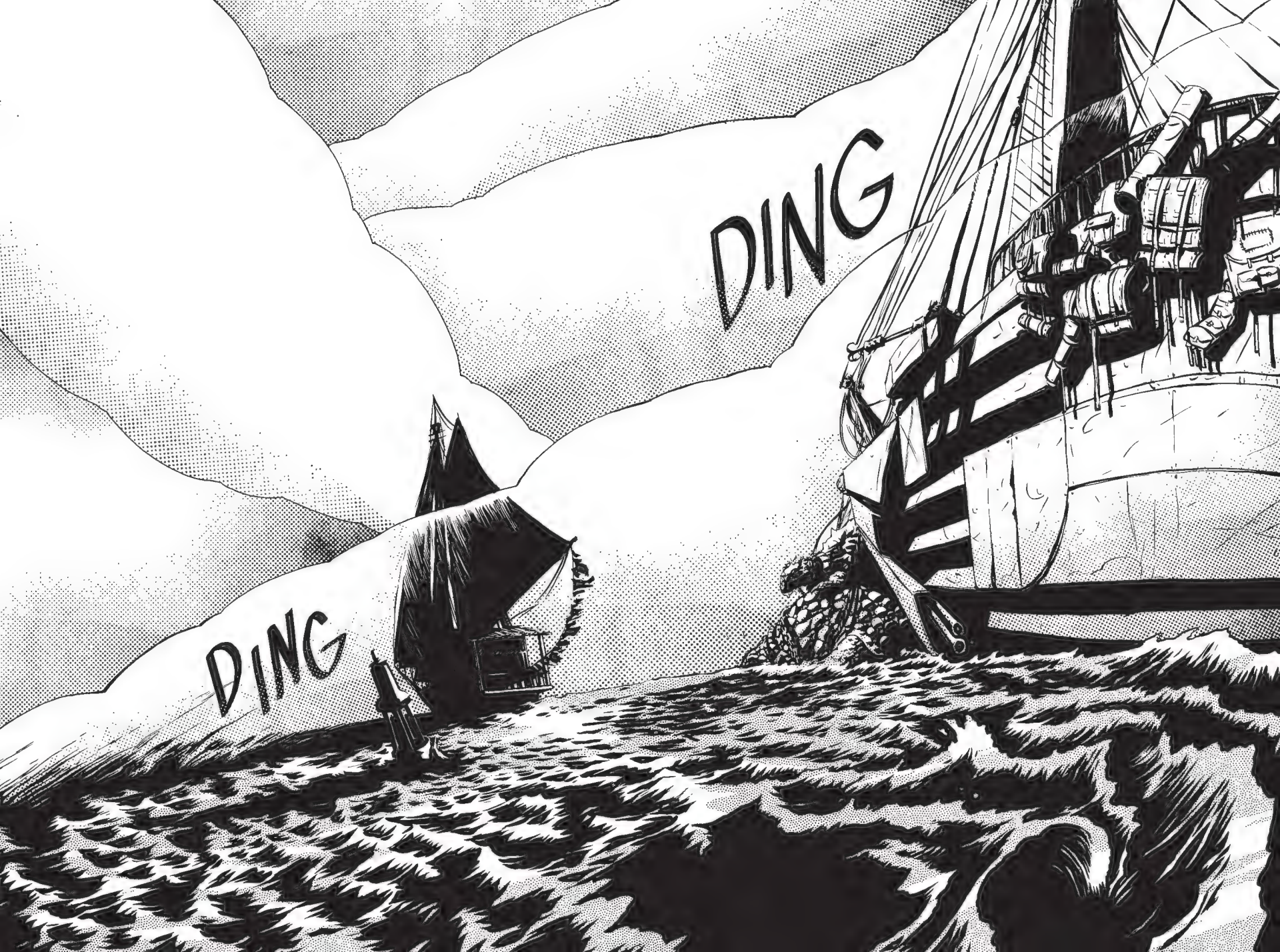
SSSSKSHHHHH

FOLLOW THEM!

HUH?

WHERE DID THE SEACHIX GO?




DING
DING

DID THEY STOP?

AGH! THIS IS IMPOS-SIBLE!

WHERE ARE WE? WE'VE GOTTA BE CLOSE TO NEWARK.

I THINK THEY STOPPED.

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN THIS MESS.

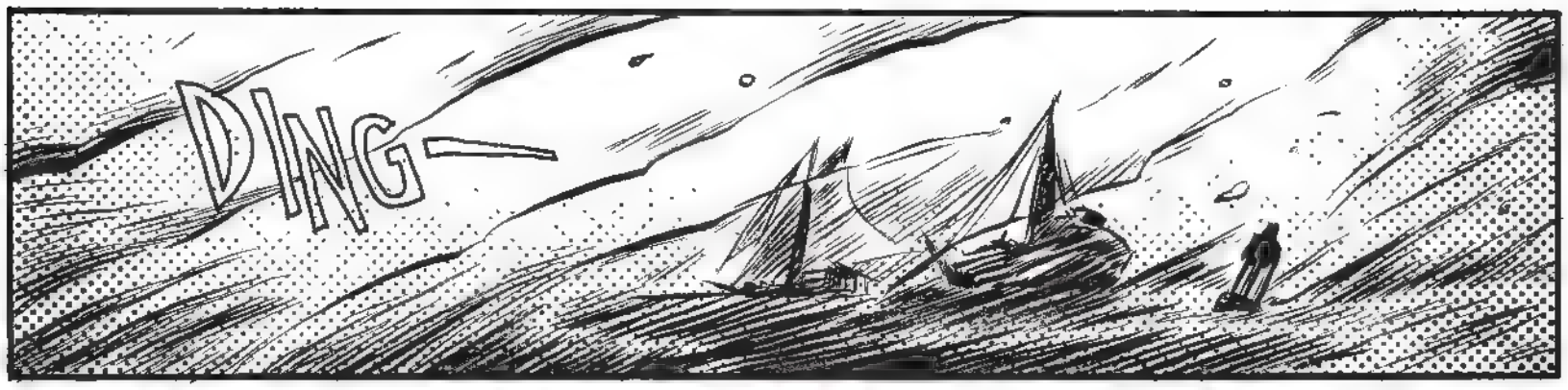
SPLISH

GUHH-I-
I'M L--TH-
THE-_-
FOG_--

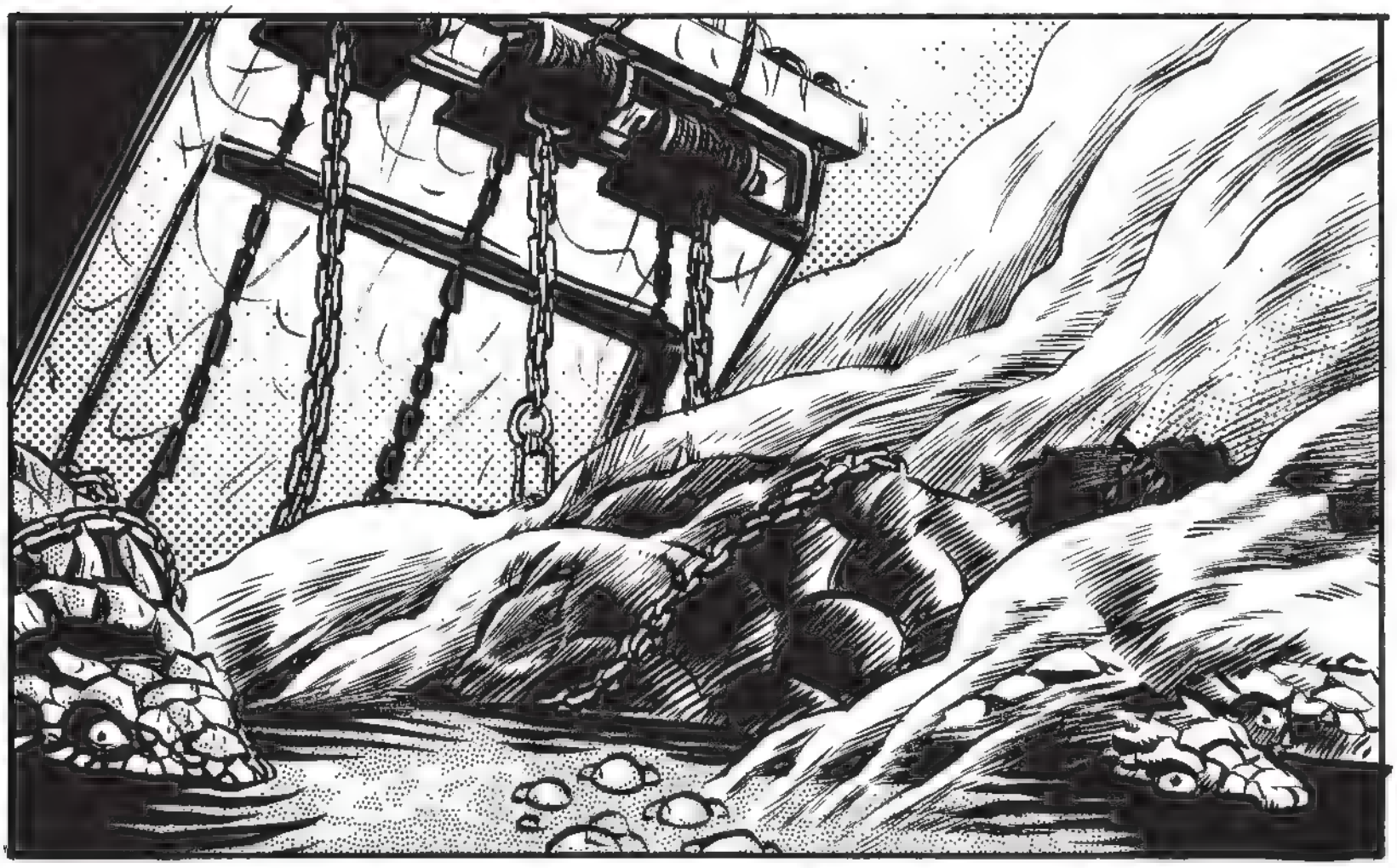
CR-R-K-

THEY SAY
HE MAKES THE
F-FOG...-.

D-I-N-G-


DING—

SHLISH
SPLISH



MIDAS?
IT'S MR. SNUGGLES! HE'S DISAP-PEARED!

huff
CLINK
huff
huff
huff
CLINK
...

SSSS

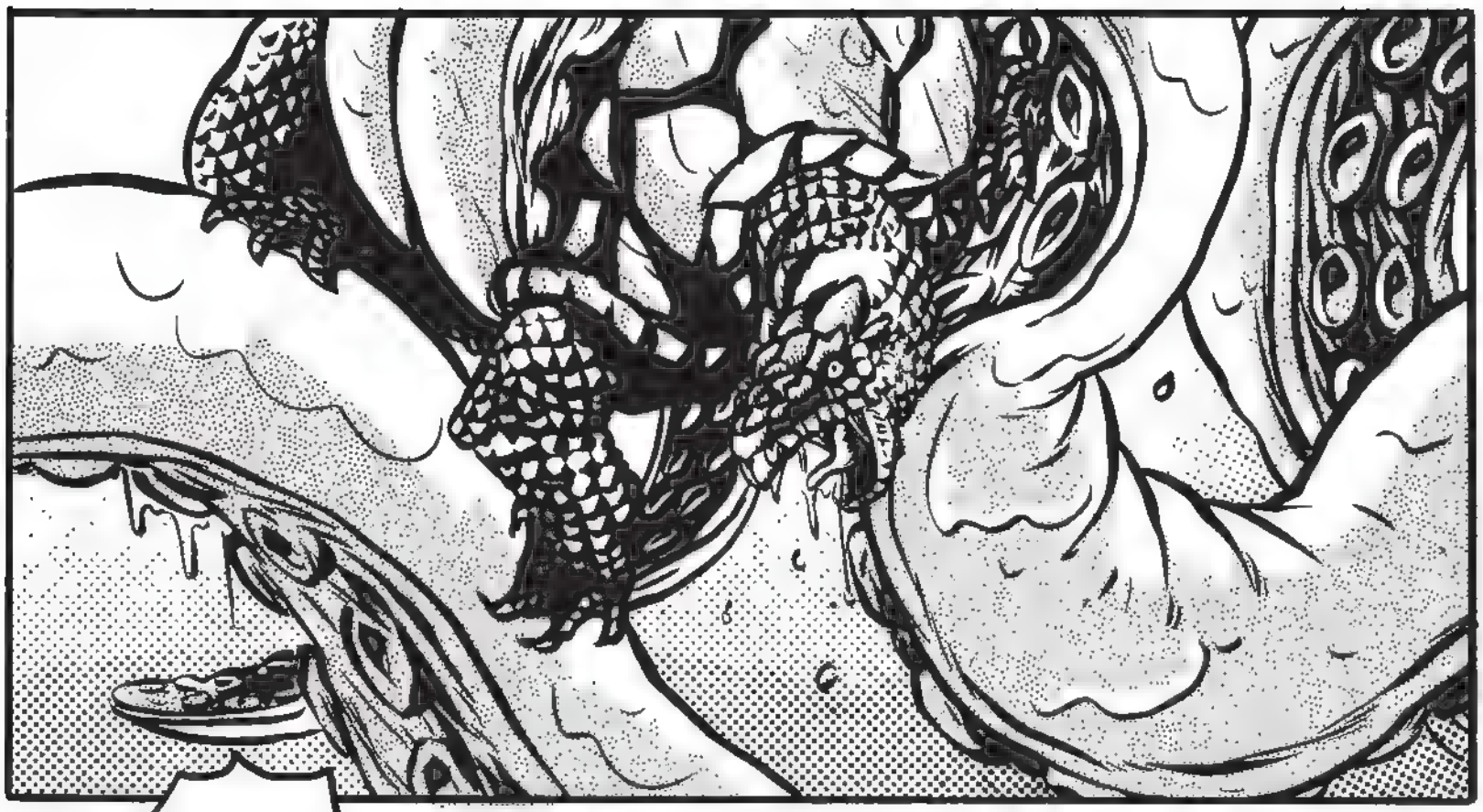
MAN THE BATTLE STATIONS! AAGH!

"SAIL INTO DEEPER WATER!" OH YEAH!

OKAY, OKAY!

NOT ONE OF MY MORE BRILLIANT IDEAS!

SPLAT



NO! MR. SNUGGLES!
NOOO!!

NOOO!!

HOW...?!

HOW COULD YOU?!

VISH

KSHK

MIDAS!

SORRY...

OOM

KSSHH.

WHOA! DEATHSNAKE, TAKE THE WHEEL!

I'M ON IT!

ABBY...

WHAT *IS* THAT?!

THE SUFFOCATING DEATH...

ABBY, GET ARCHER BELOW!

BUT–

NO BUTS! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! SECURE THE CARGO!

BUT WE CAN KILL IT!

I SAID, NO MORE–

AHH

WHAT?!

UHH...

SKSS

UNG!

I HATE JERSEY.

WISH

SPLUK

SHH

ABBY?

CHILL, JOE, I GOT THIS!

AAK

TUG TUG

HNNG!

POP!

EEEEEEEE

EEEEEE

ENOUGH TALKING!

BOOM
FIRE!
BOOM
BOOM
KABOOM

eeeeee

TMP

TMP

TMP

R-R-R-K

WHY DID THE GUNS STOP?

LCHH

WE'RE OUT OF AMMO!

tng

WE'RE OUT...?

HUAH!

HAH!

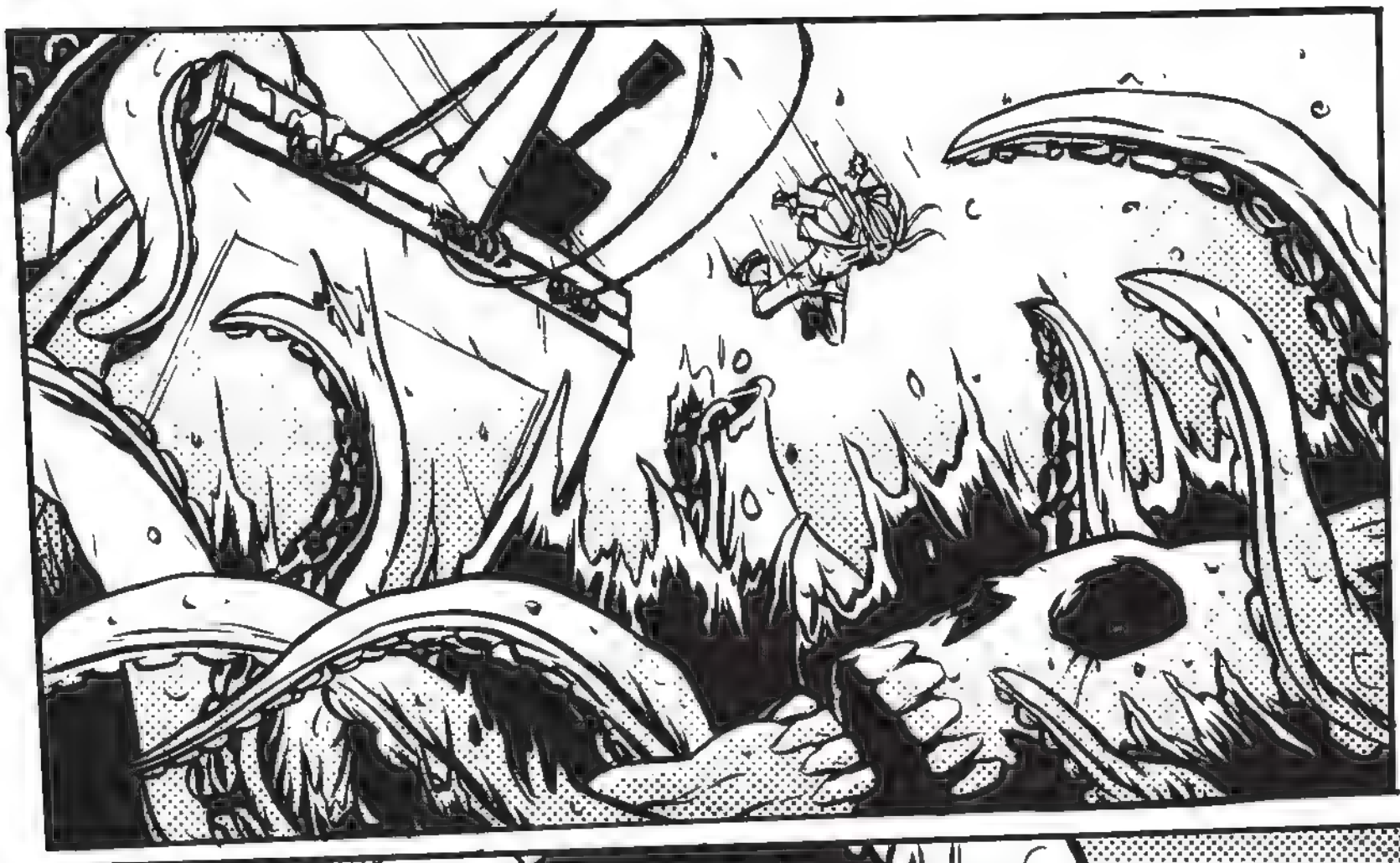
YEAUH!

WHUN

AUGH

YEAH. YOU LIKE THAT?

WELCOME TO JERSEY, SUCKA.



THAT'S IT!
WHUM

WHUM

YOU UGLY PIECE OF-

WHOOP!

HNNG...

NNG!

IT'S AS BIG AS MY HEAD!! SPLENDID!

UURNH!

MAGNIFICEN-

BRP!

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

SURE WE WILL. TIE THOSE BARRELS DOWN!

NOW, WHERE IS...?

LEE!!

WE GOTTA WORK TOGETH-!

SSKSH

AGH!

WHAT?

I SAID, WE GOTTA WORK TOGETHER!

PORK FOREVER? JOE, YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!

I SAAIID...

...WOOORRRK TOOGEEETHEER !!!

TEAM UP WITH THE LIKES OF YOU?

KCHOOM

DEATH FIRST!!

YOWCH!

BAM

AMBLE

ON SECOND THOUGHT...

...I'LL WORK WITH YOU ON *ONE* CONDITION.

TNK

HAND OVER THE MAP...

THUG

...AND WE GOT A DEAL!

YEAH RIGHT, LEE!

I CHANGED MY MIND. I CAN'T WORK WITH HIM. HE'S CRAZY!

HAHA HAHA HAHA

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, HAND OVER DEATHSNAKE, TOO!

WHAT'S HE SAYING ABOUT ME?

I SAID, FORGET IT, LEE!

YOU'RE TOO CRAZY!

HA HA HA!

AND GIVE ME ALL YOUR MONEY!!! HA HA!

I'M NOT TEAMING UP WITH HIM!

A LITTLE HELP OVER HERE?

WAIT....!

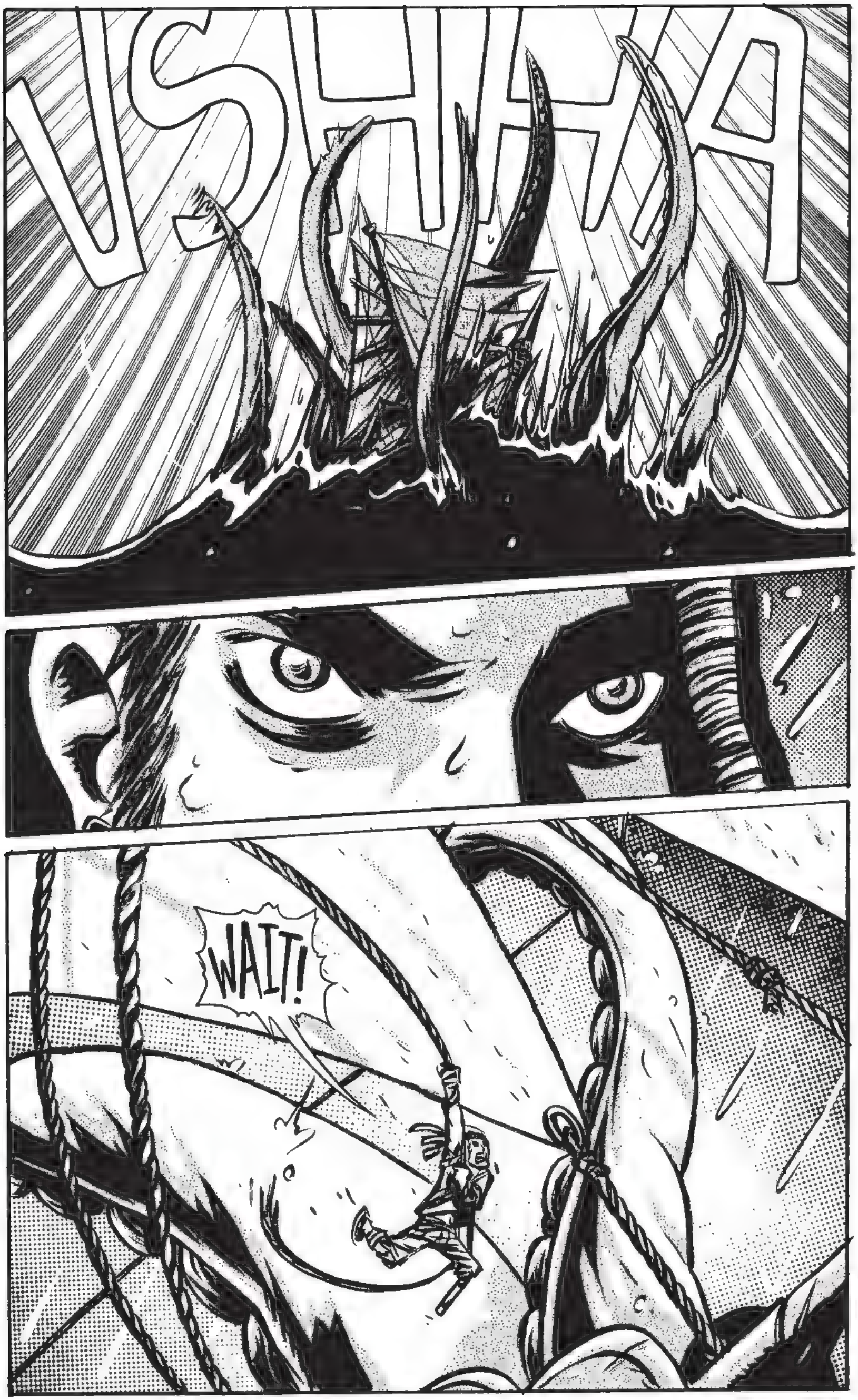
SSSHHH

DEATHSNAKE, WATCH THE LINES. I'M GONNA TAKE A HIGHER LOOK.

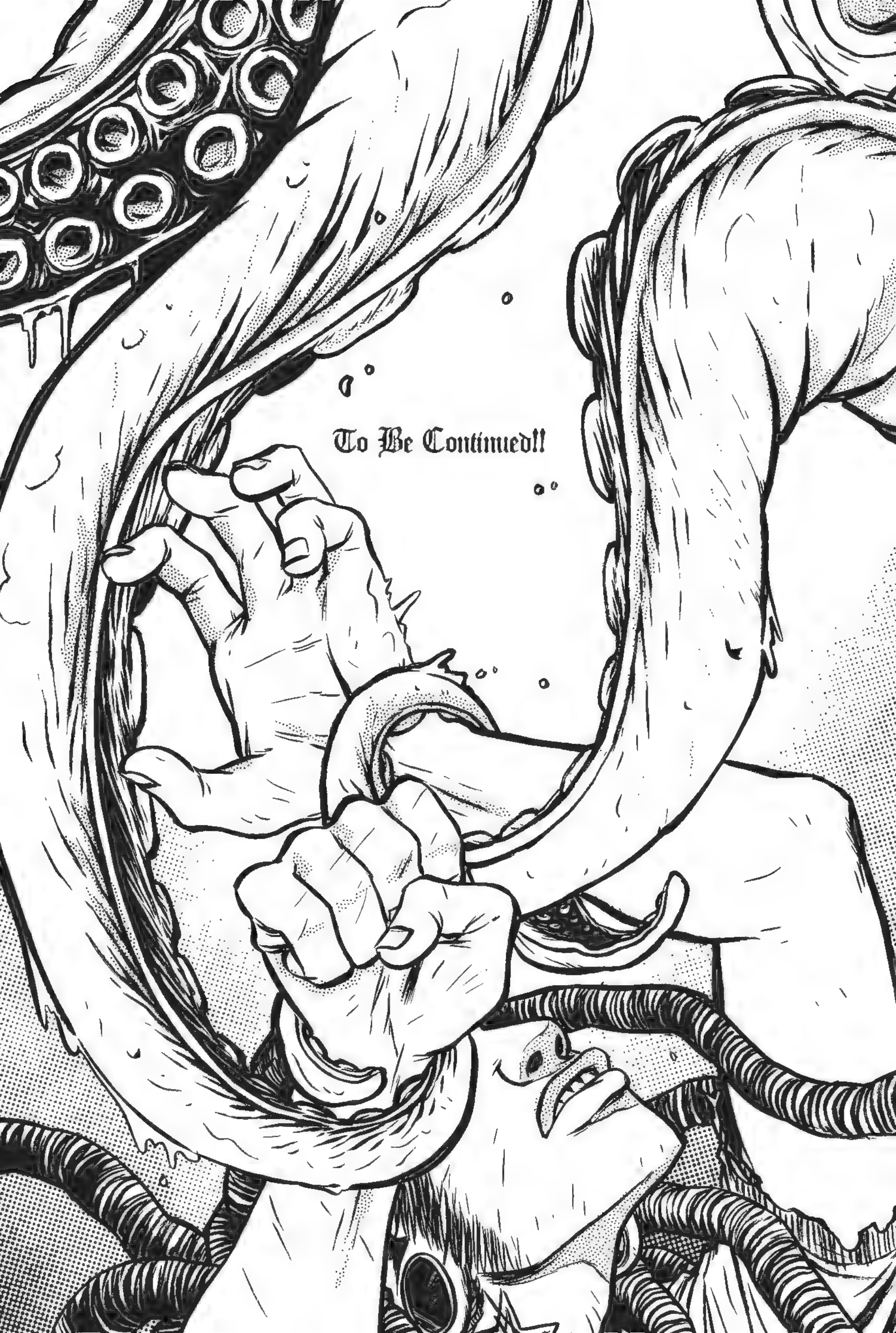
HUP!

HAHAHAHA

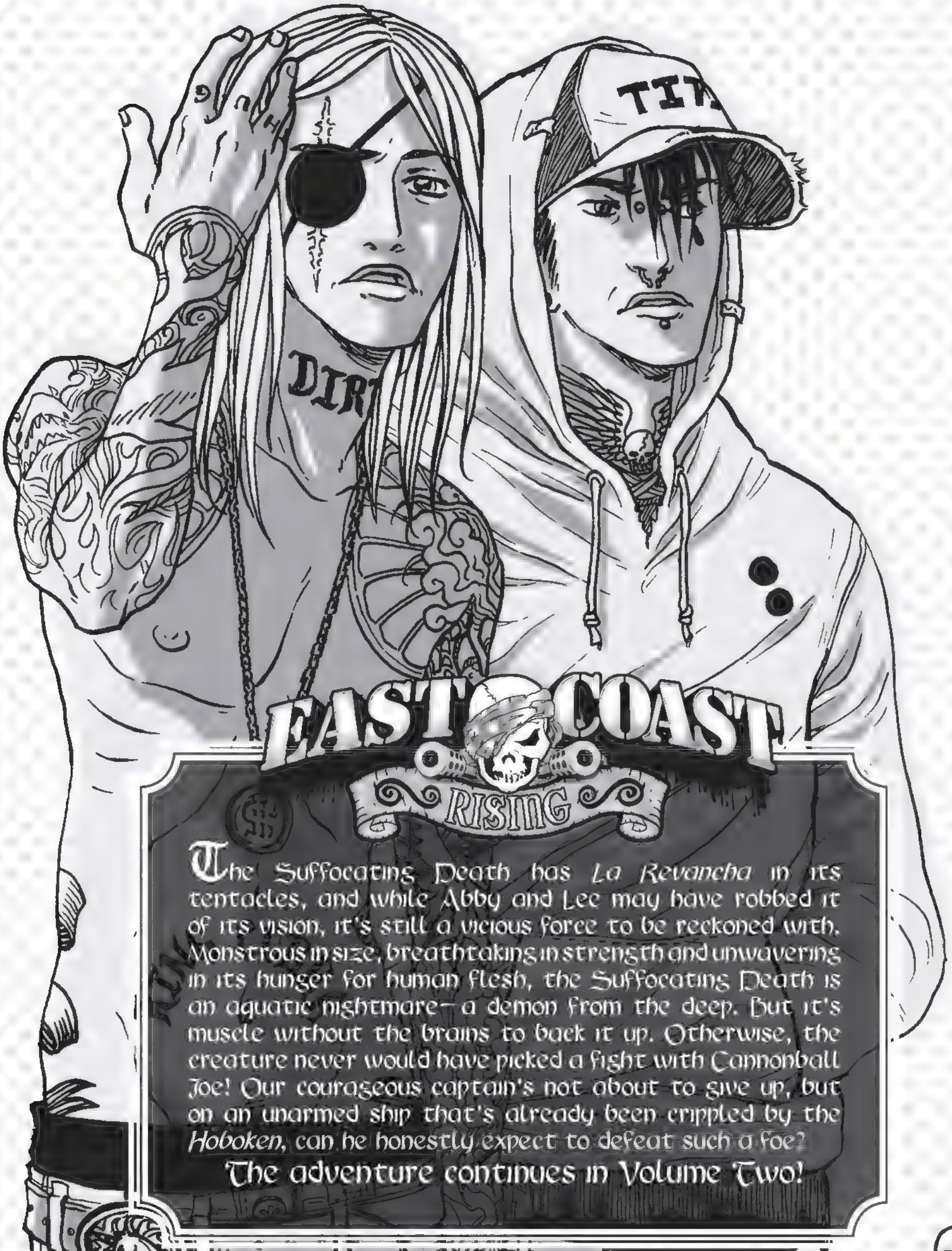
IT'S RIGHT BENEATH US!!


VISHNU
WAIT!

IT'S YOU AND ME, UGLY!
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT!!


To Be Continued!!

Coming up in Volume Two

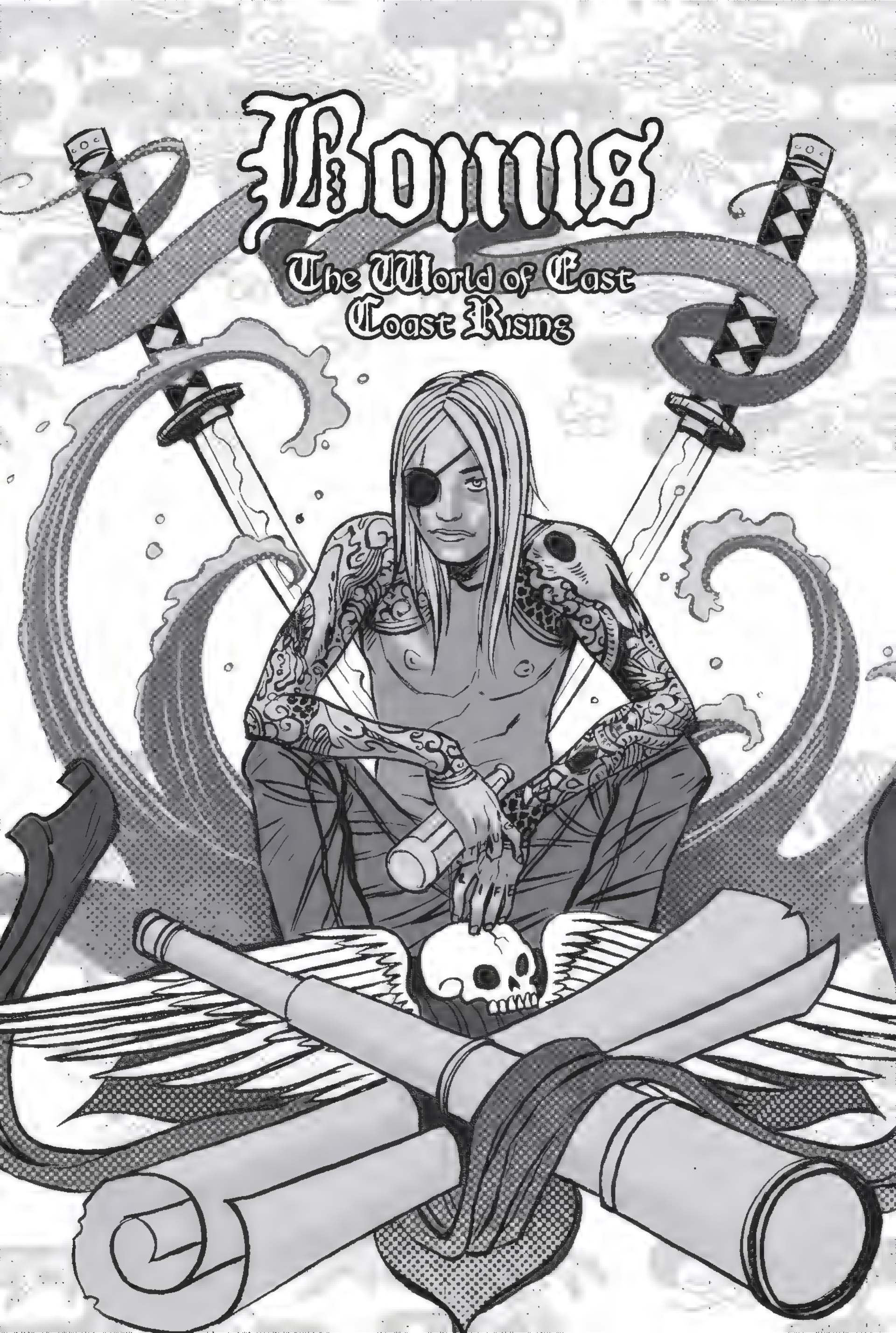


The Suffocating Death has *La Revancha* in its tentacles, and while Abby and Lee may have robbed it of its vision, it's still a vicious force to be reckoned with. Monstrous in size, breathtaking in strength and unwavering in its hunger for human flesh, the Suffocating Death is an aquatic nightmare– a demon from the deep. But it's muscle without the brains to back it up. Otherwise, the creature never would have picked a fight with Cannonball Joe! Our courageous captain's not about to give up, but on an unarmed ship that's already been crippled by the *Hoboken*, can he honestly expect to defeat such a foe?

The adventure continues in Volume Two!

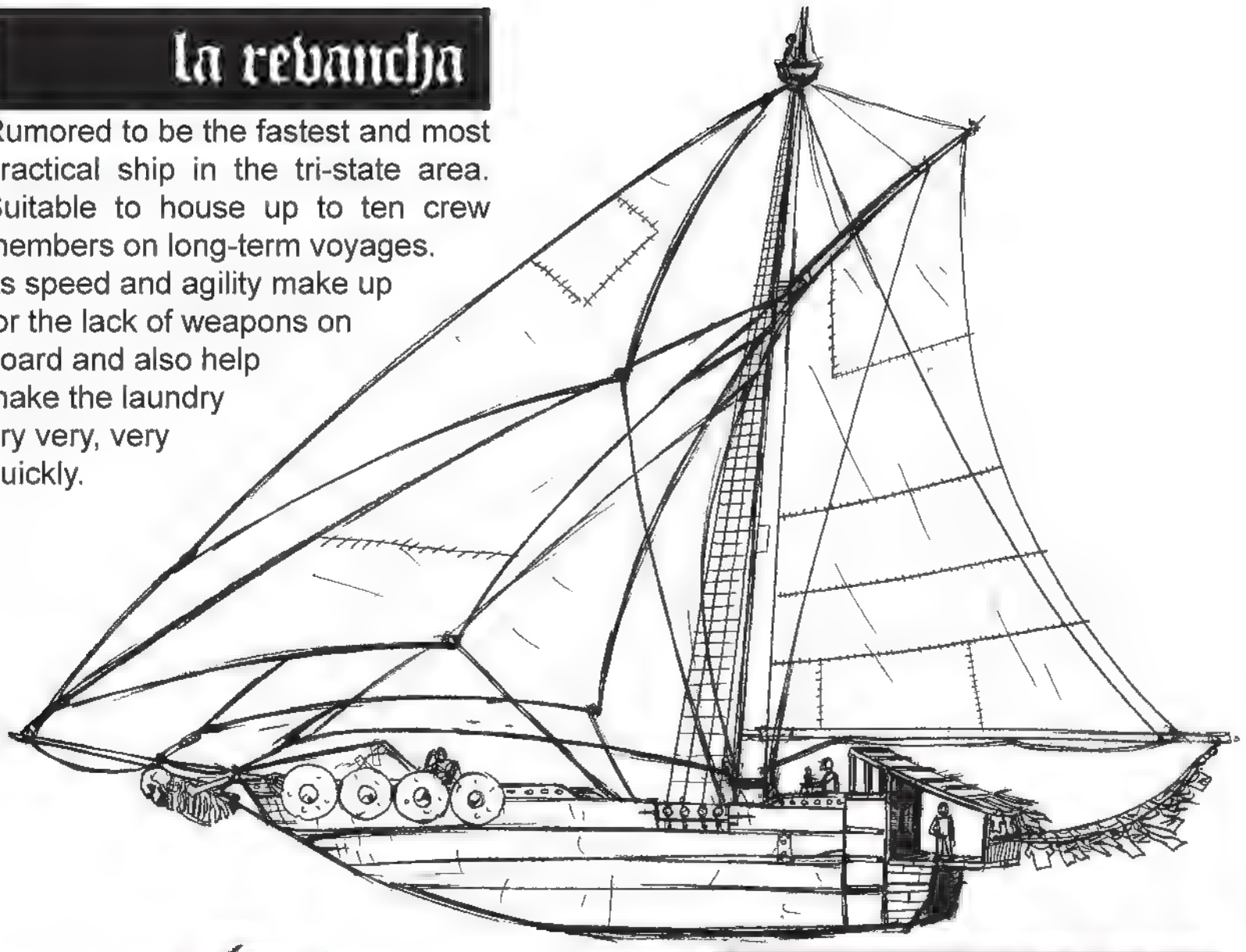
Bonus

The World of East Coast Rising



la revancha

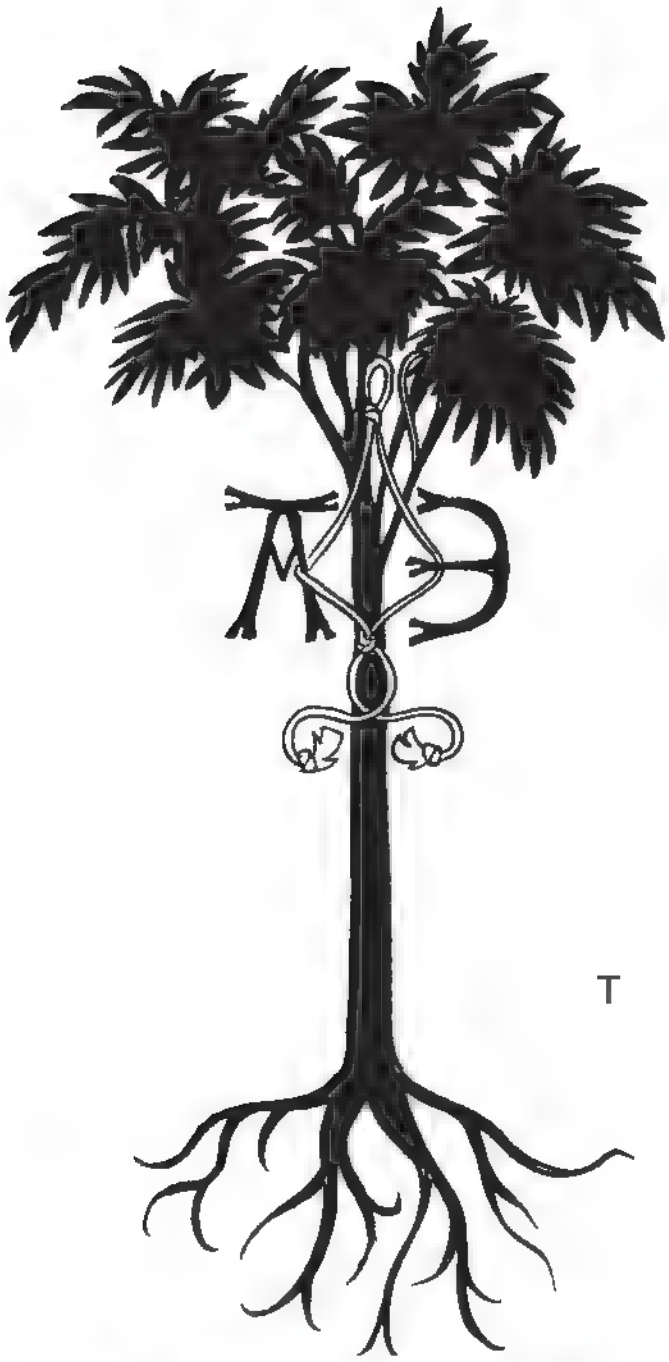
Rumored to be the fastest and most practical ship in the tri-state area. Suitable to house up to ten crew members on long-term voyages. Its speed and agility make up for the lack of weapons on board and also help make the laundry dry very, very quickly.



rat finks

Contrary to popular belief, the crew of *La Revancha* are merchants. They turned to trading after treasure became scarce and treasure-hunting became too difficult to make a living at. They have no interest in pillaging. Plunder, however, is another story...

Left: Deathsnake and Joe



T

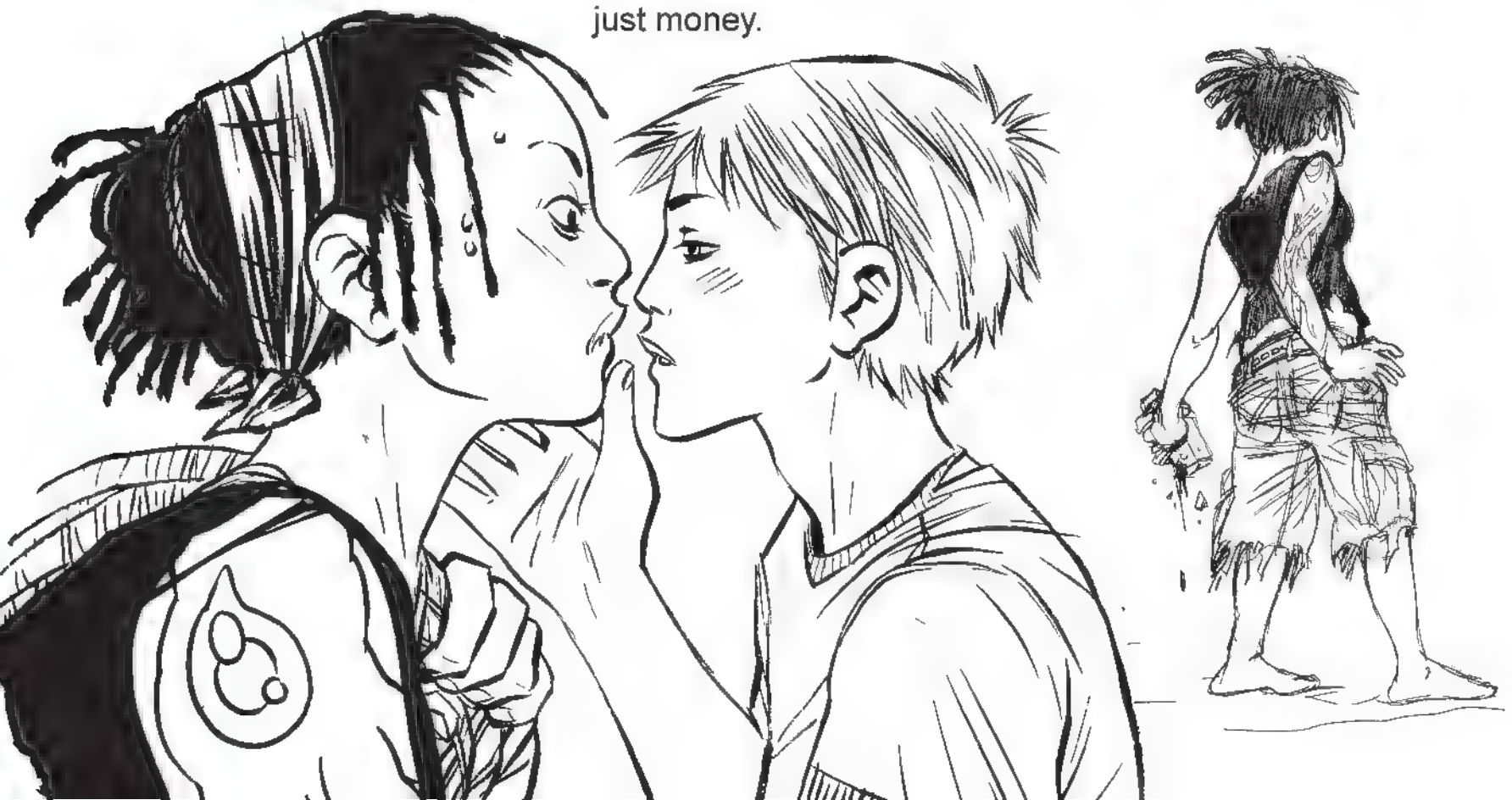
venti

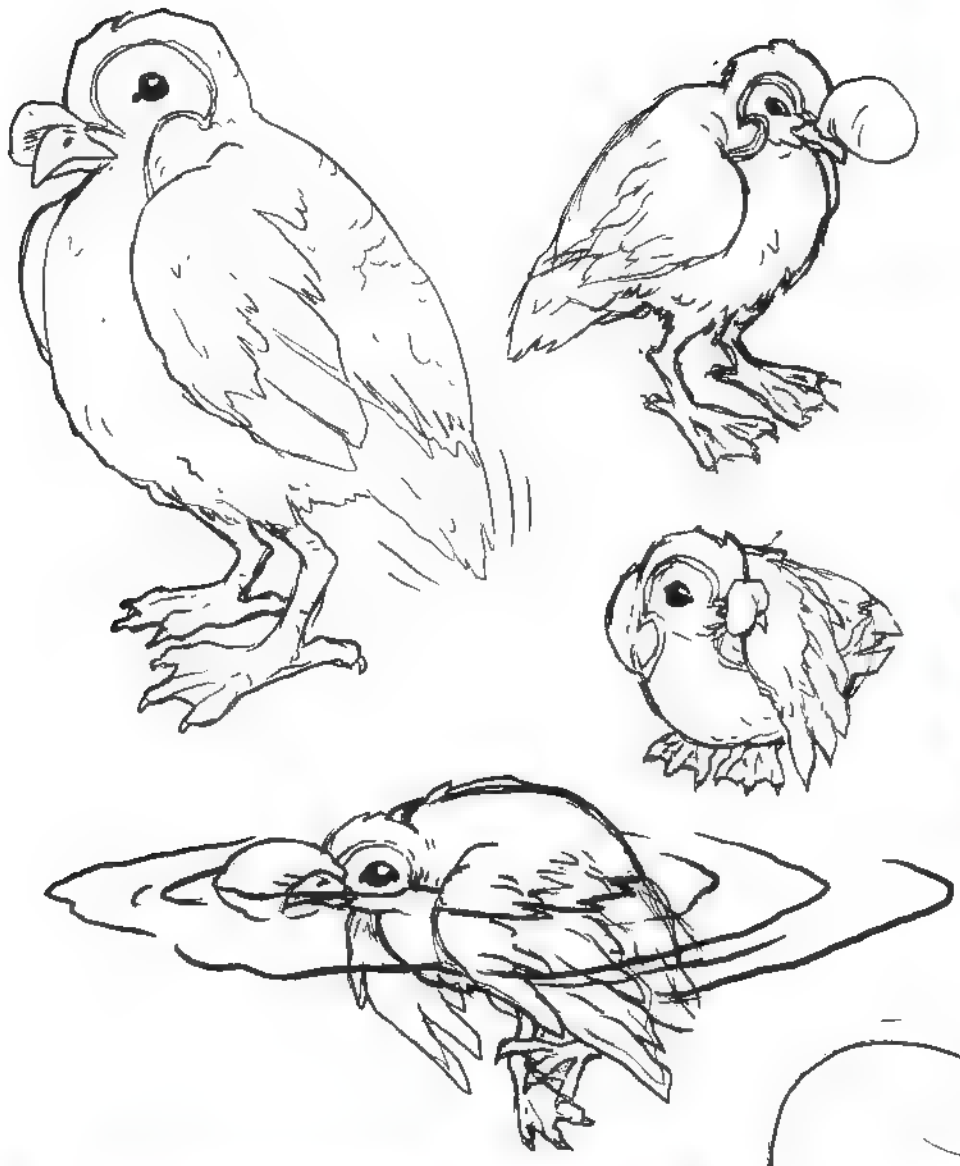
Joseph G. Venti was the last mayor of New York before the great floods. After he died, his body was buried inside a family tomb in Queens along with all of the money he had stolen during his time in office. Many have searched in vain for his treasure.

Of course, it's never as easy as just following a map.The treasure is said to be guarded by Venti's descendents, who took an oath to protect the tomb from outsiders, and the subways have become an underwater maze infested with slithering demons. It's assumed that whatever they are guarding must be pretty important.

fortune & glory

There is no doubt that Venti had possessed immense wealth, but some also believe that he studied alchemy and the occult to find immortality. If that was the case, then his tomb could contain more than just money.





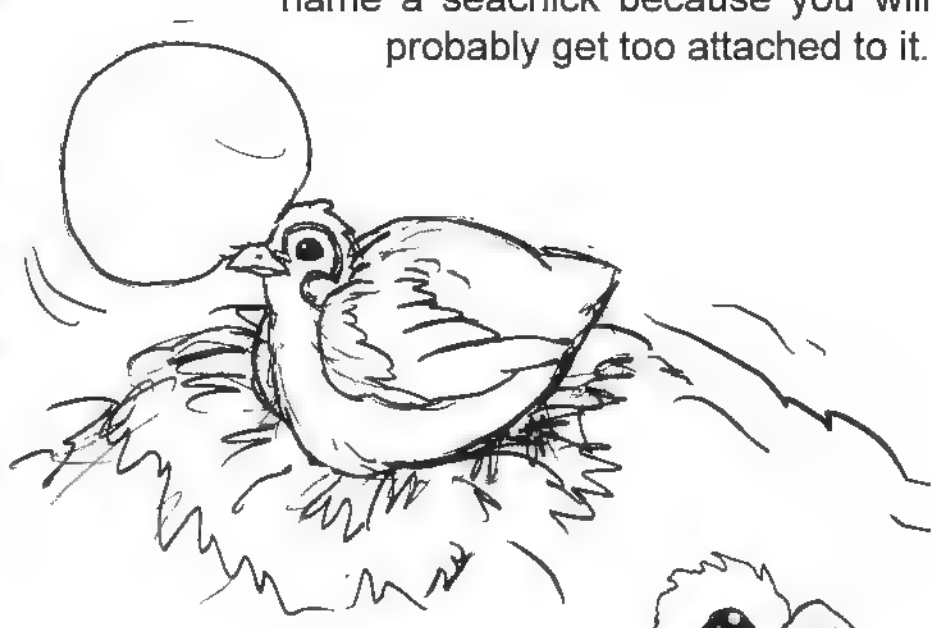
animal planet

Seachix are the true chicken of the sea. They have adapted to life on the water, going as long as three months without seeing any land. They don't migrate, and most of the seachick population is found in northern Jersey. Most are found to be friendly and can be taught simple tricks.

Sachet

Pronounced *sah-shay*. The name of Drake's new friend. Literally, it is a ball of spices used to flavor a sauce.

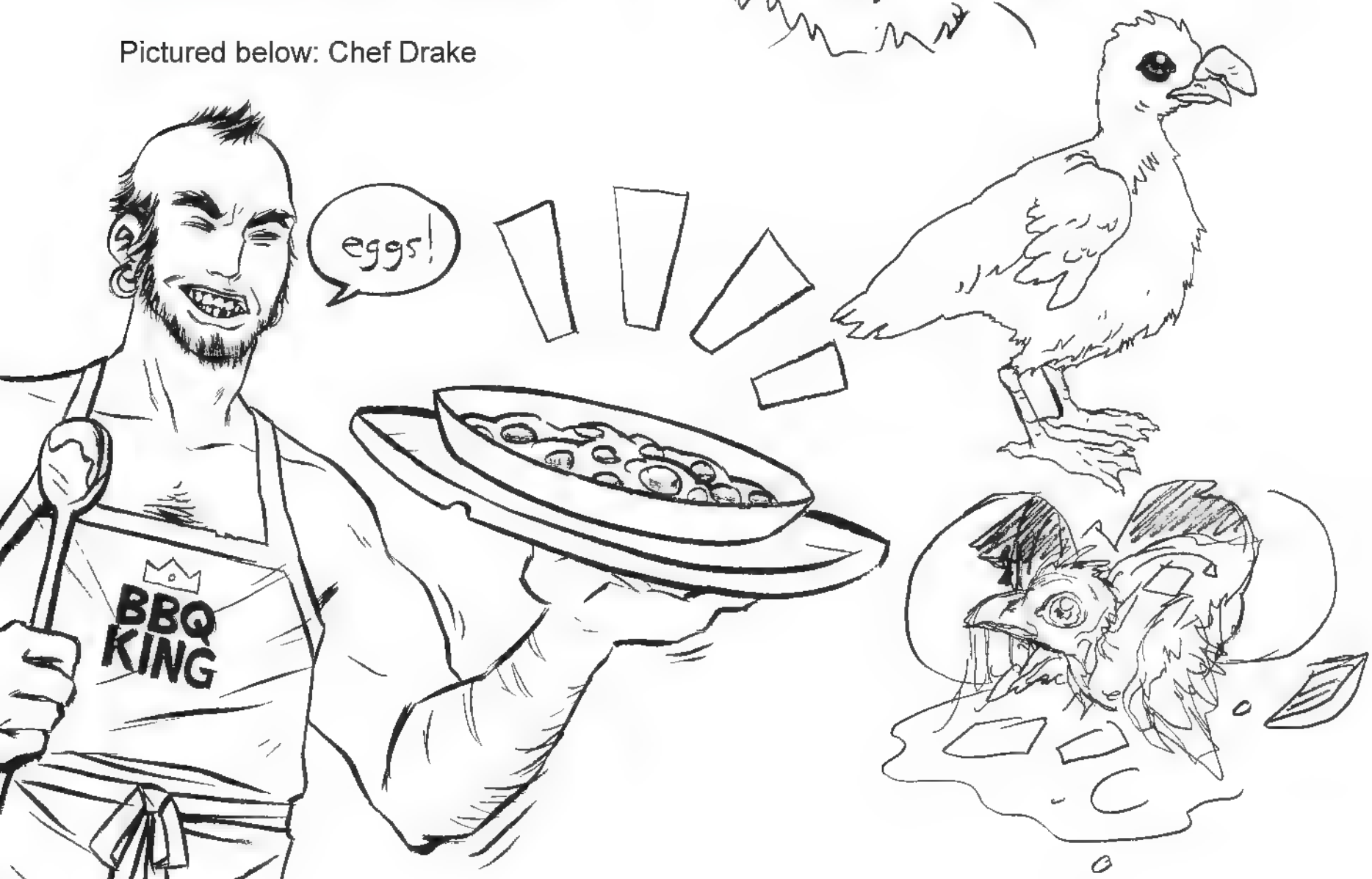
Most people think it is a bad idea to name a seachick because you will probably get too attached to it.



kiss the cook

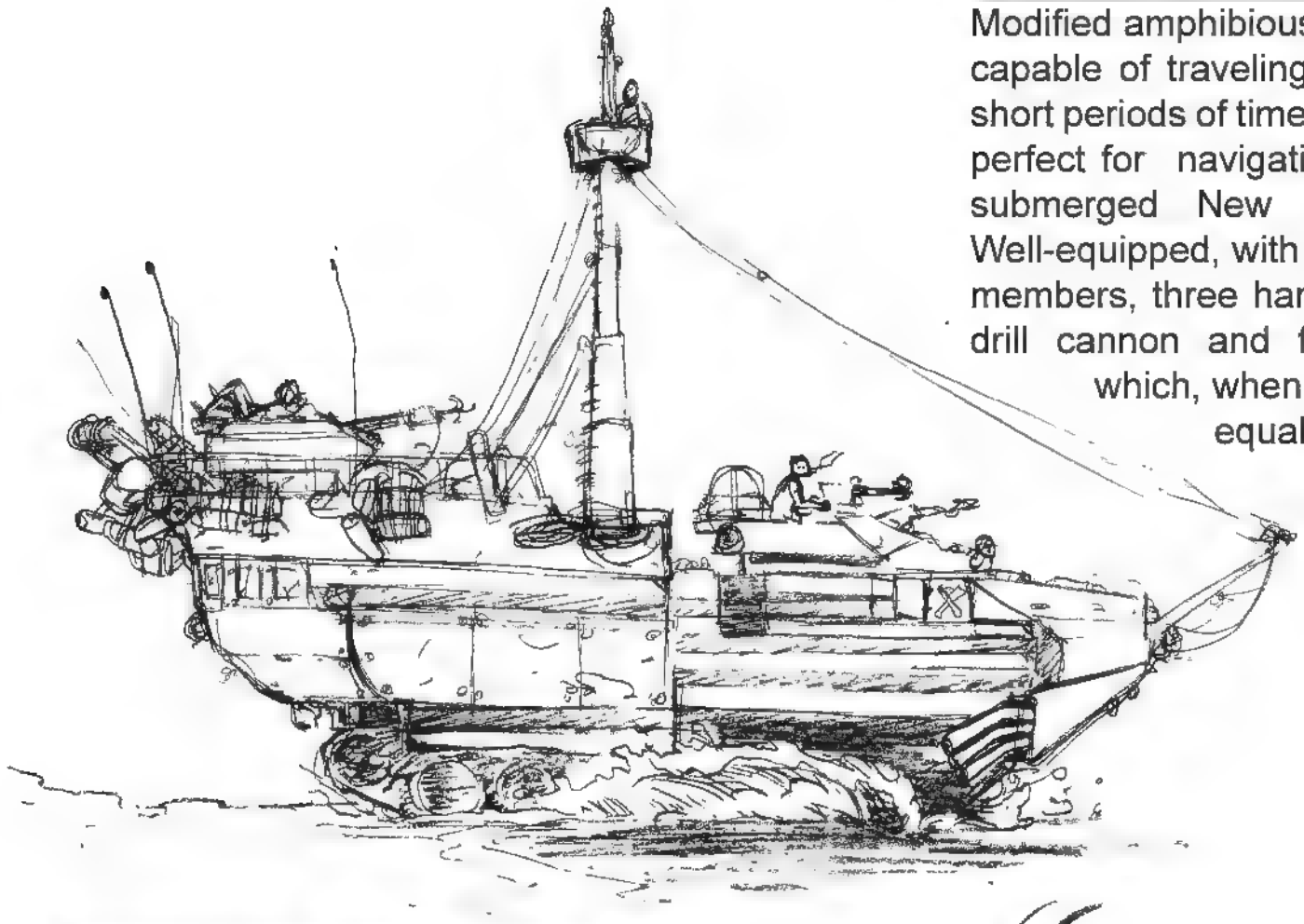
The large flock of seachix living on board *La Revancha* provide the crew with an eternal supply of omelettes.

Pictured below: Chef Drake



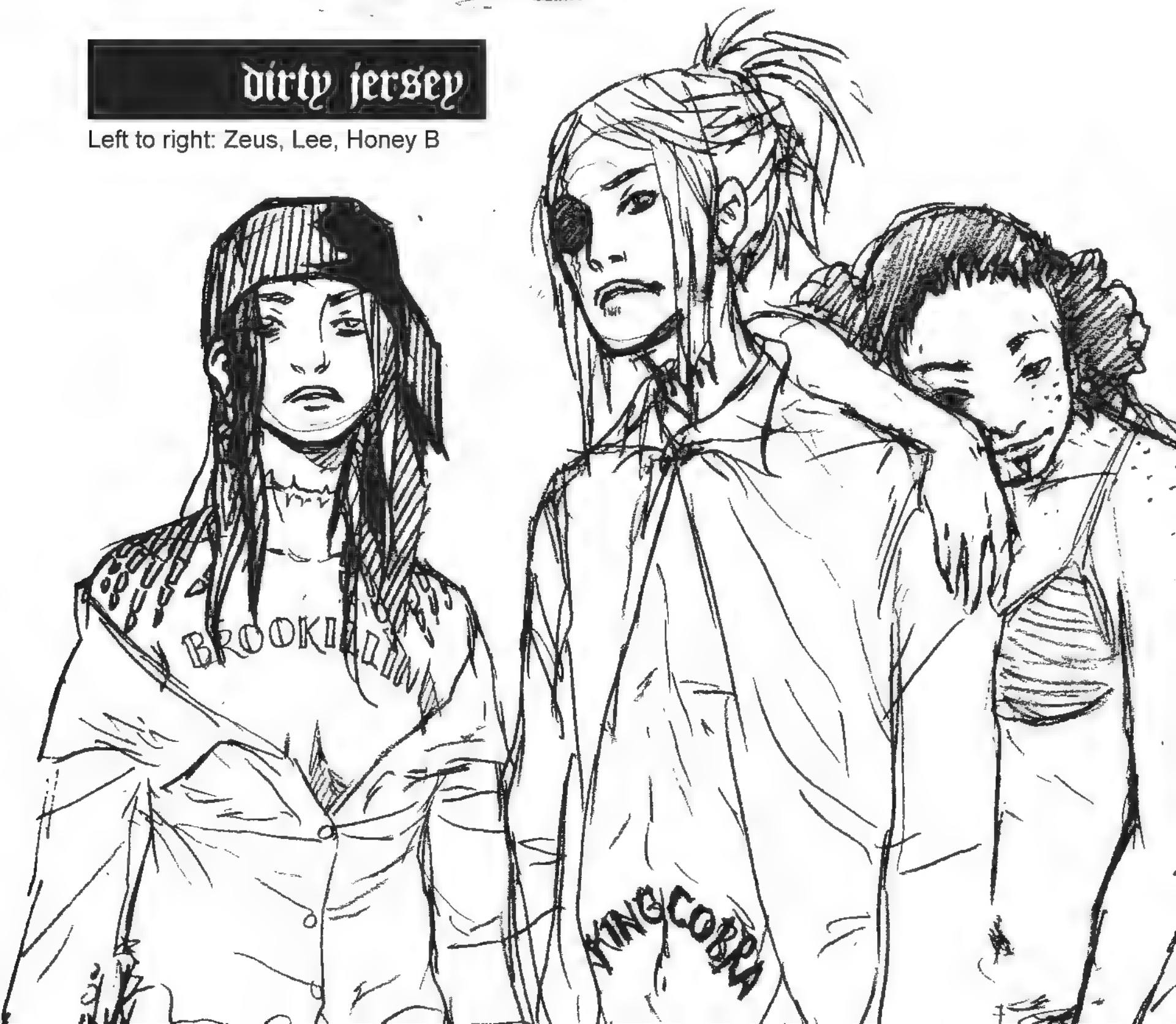
the hoboken

Modified amphibious assault vehicle capable of traveling underwater for short periods of time, the *Hoboken* is perfect for navigating the partially-submerged New Jersey terrain. Well-equipped, with seventeen crew members, three harpoon guns, one drill cannon and four anklogame which, when added together, equal one huge world of hurt.



dirty jersey

Left to right: Zeus, Lee, Honey B



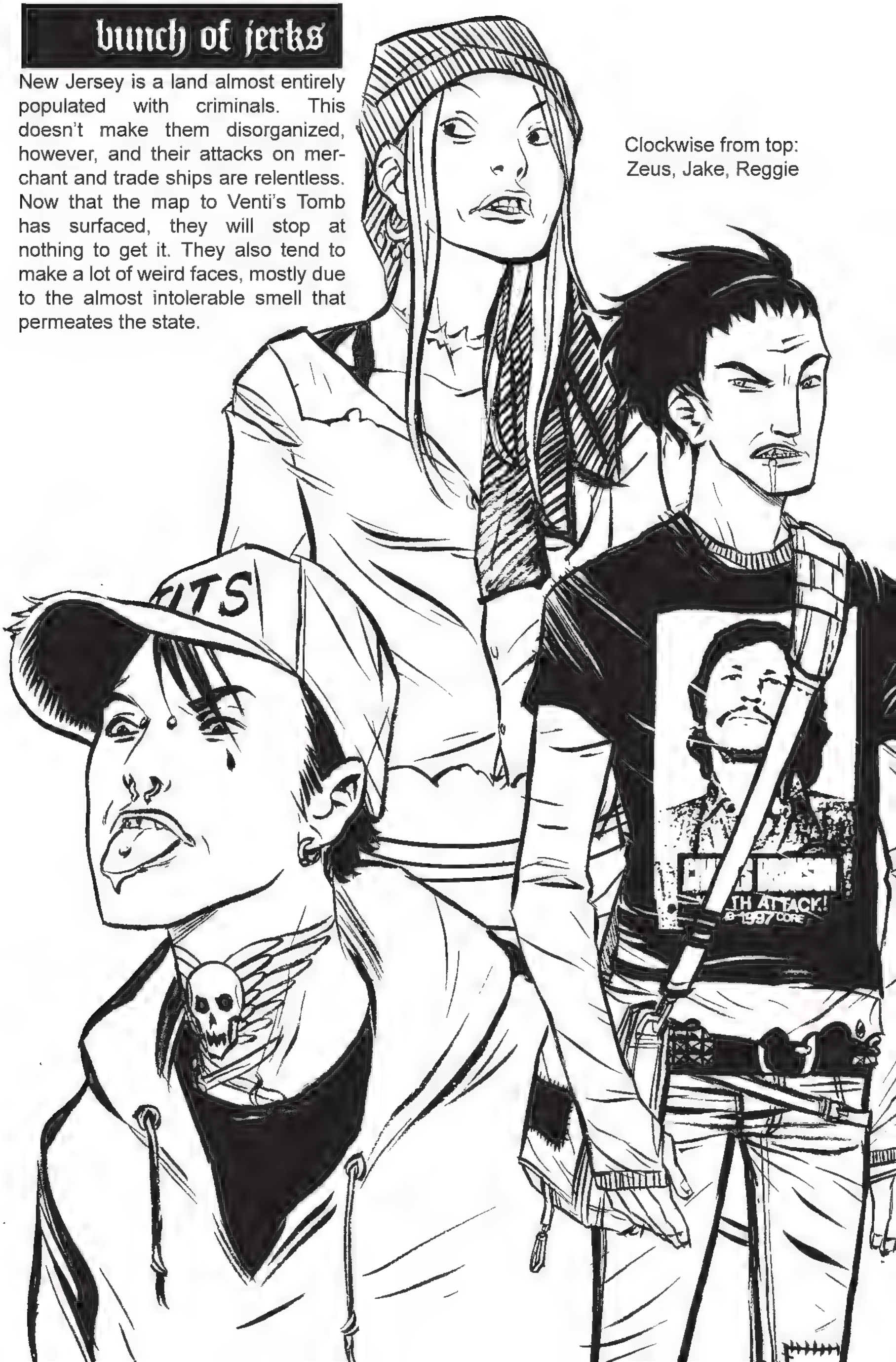
knife fight

Lee killed this monster with a knife.

bunch of jerks

New Jersey is a land almost entirely populated with criminals. This doesn't make them disorganized, however, and their attacks on merchant and trade ships are relentless. Now that the map to Venti's Tomb has surfaced, they will stop at nothing to get it. They also tend to make a lot of weird faces, mostly due to the almost intolerable smell that permeates the state.

Clockwise from top:
Zeus, Jake, Reggie



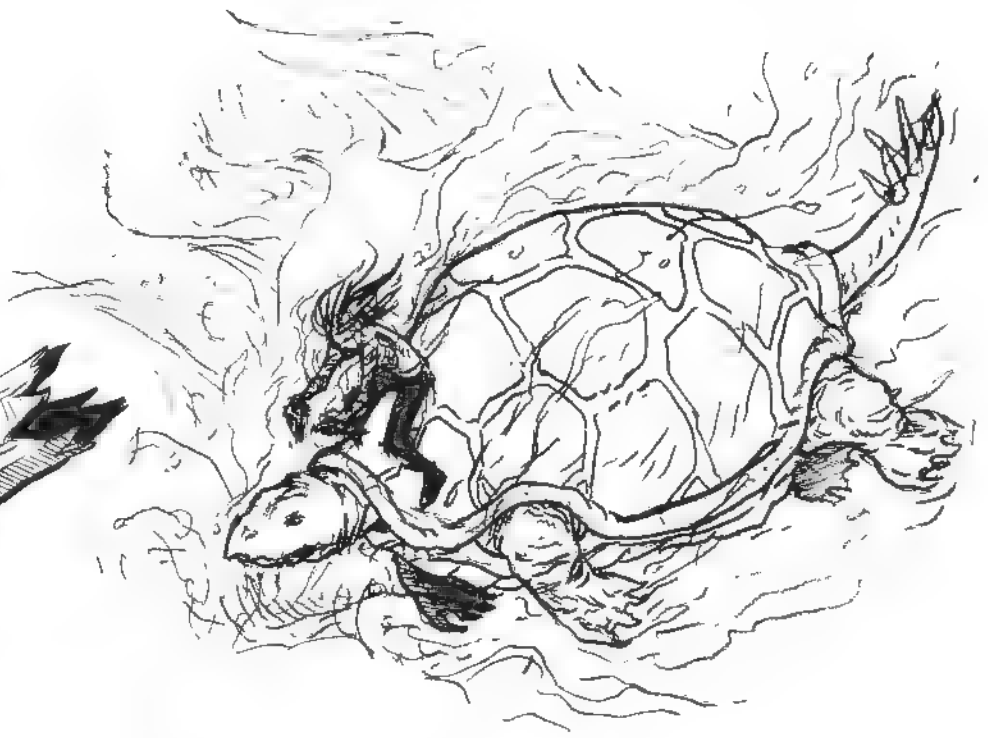
tattoos

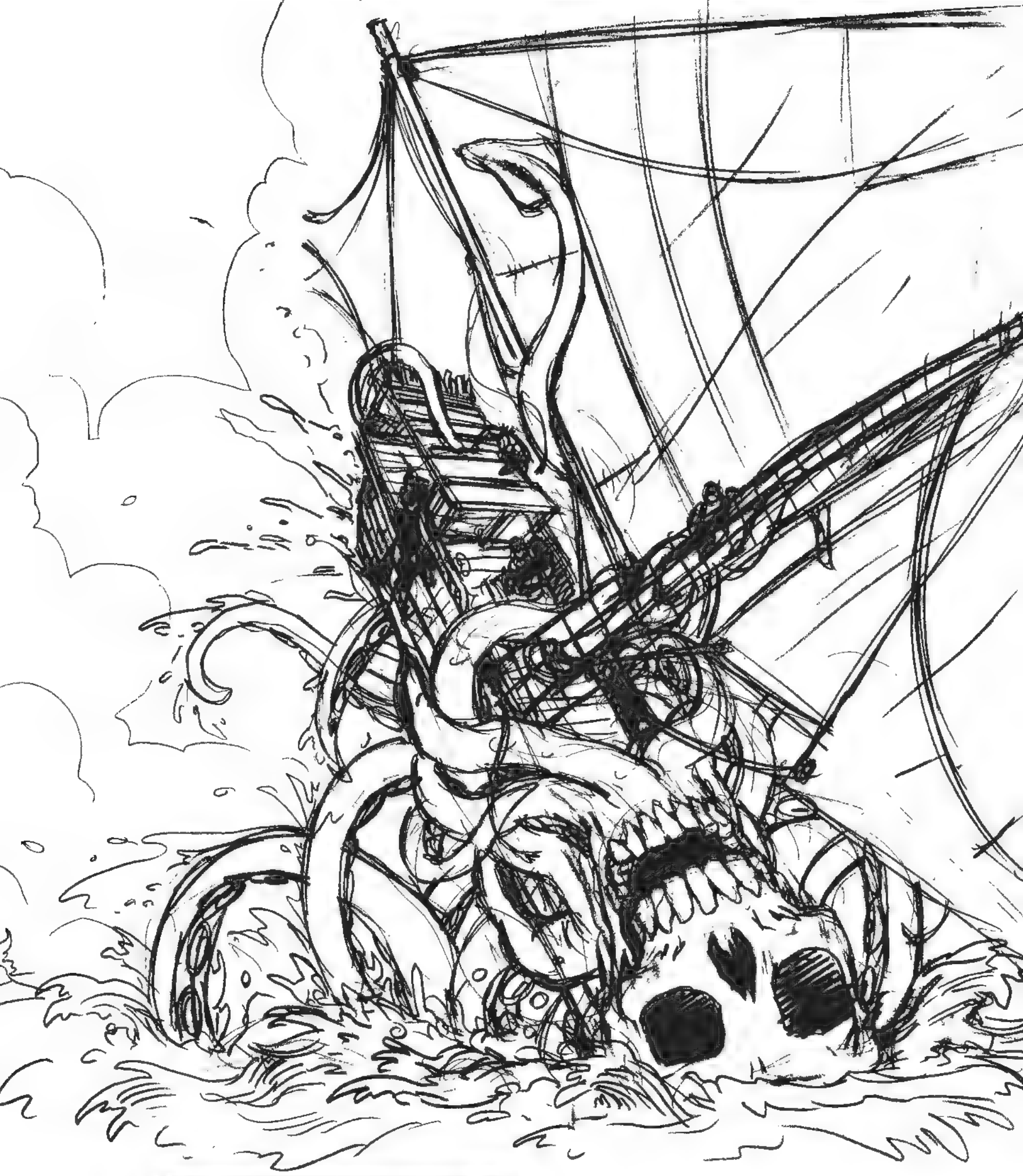
Each tattoo has a meaning for the character who wears it. Some are for superstition or good luck; others are in remberence of someone. A lot are just old and embarrassing, though.

mr. smuggles

Midas has been raising and training anklogame since he was a wee little boy. He found an abandoned nest of eggs on Shaolin and raised the baby turtles without knowing they would grow to be bigger than an SUV.

The anklogames' favorite food is human flesh, but they also enjoy small sea mammals and crustaceans.





blind death

Few see it and live to tell the tale. Consequently, not much is known about this ancient sea beast, known also as the Caducus or Suffocating Death. The majority of sightings have been close to Newark; however, most have been reported as hoaxes. Nobody knows for sure, but there is thought to be only one in existence.

The origin of this creature is shrouded in mystery. Legend has it that it is the ghost of a deceased whaler who was beheaded for high treason. His disembodied head was thrown laughing into the ocean, and to this day it still haunts the waves, looking for its body. Most people think of the Suffocating Death as mythological, much like the Loch Ness monster and the Rio Yeti.

Logos

Below are a few of the conceptual designs I did over the course of a weekend.

I really enjoy fonts, typography and lettering. I've done a lot of posters and flyers for many different types of shows, so it was fun to take a few days and incorporate that into my comic. It's really quite a challenge.

I think this one might be my favorite of the four, mostly because of the little wavey-type thing at the top. It looks almost like it belongs on a bar of soap. So fresh and so clean!

I was hoping to pull off a kraken-style underwater monster-type feeling with this one. That plus the classic tattoo font, fishing line and bob made this one pretty fun to draw.

The line through the bottom of this logo was going to represent sea level, but instead it turned this logo into the unholy union of Manowar and Husker Du. Am I good or what?

When I finished coloring this logo it magically transformed into a lesser Egyptian god.

Less pirates! More Ra!

Most of the art on the following pages was done during the summer of 2003 and remixed recently into this short comic....

legendary treasures

VENTI'S TOMB IS AS COMMON AS A BEDTIME STORY. EVERYBODY'S HEARD OF IT, BUT NOBODY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY.
HOW MUCH TREASURE IS THERE? WILL WE BE ABLE CARRY IT HOME? HOW LONG WILL THE TRIP TAKE?
DOES IT EVEN EXIST?

HEY!

OF *COURSE* IT EXISTS! THERE'S NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE.

OH, SO *THAT'S* WHAT THAT SMELL IS.

BUT FOR REAL, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND!

MAYBE IT'LL BE THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE TEACUP COLLECTION.

OR MAYBE VENTI'S GOT SOMETHING FOR MY FOOT FUNGUS.

MAYBE, BUT FIRST WE GOTTA BEAT THIS SEA MONSTER.

OH YEAH, I ALMOST FORGOT...

SPOTLIGHT

TOKYOPOP MANGA SUPPLEMENT

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BY AMY KIM GANTER

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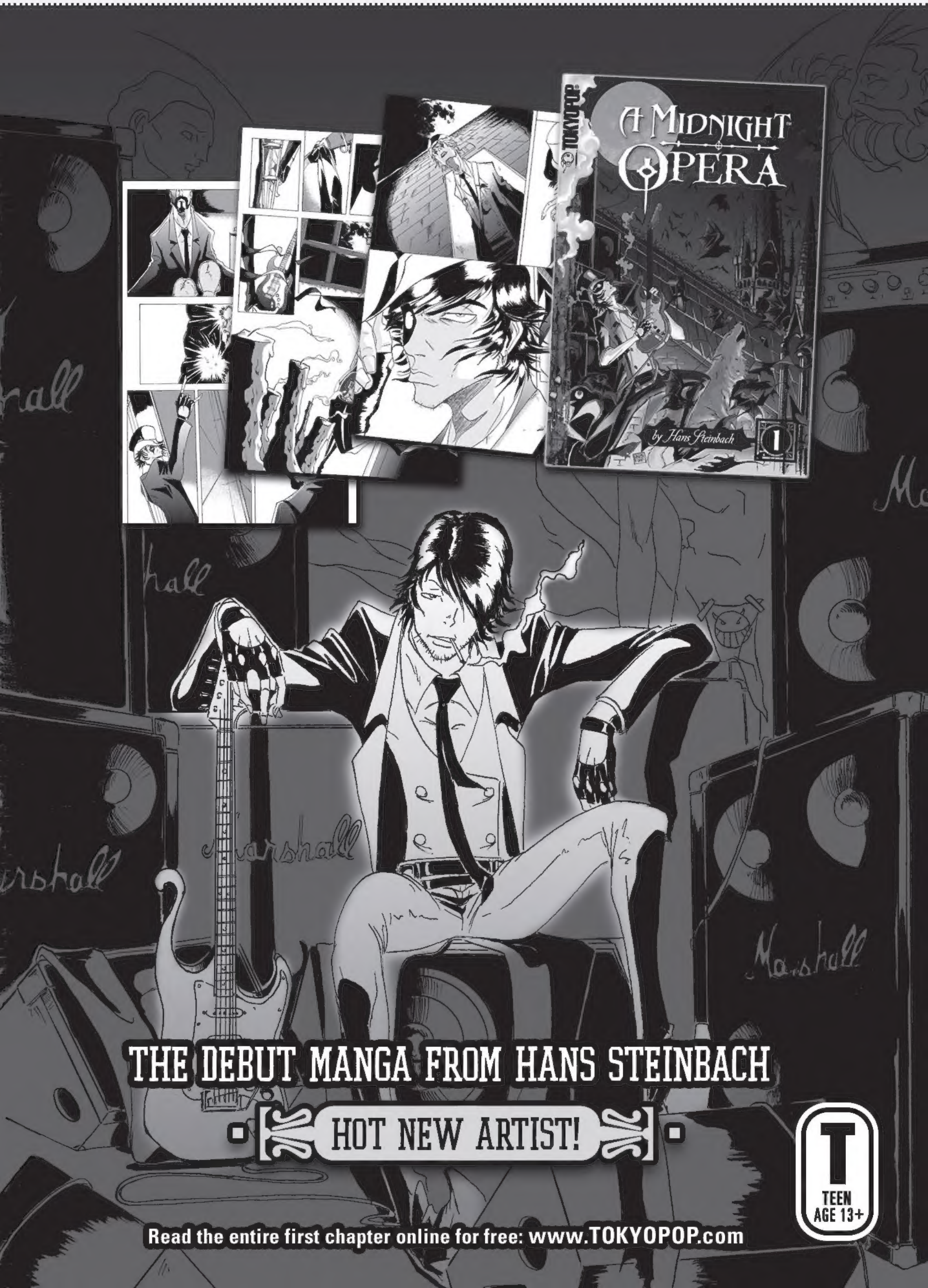
A MIDNIGHT OPERA



A Midnight Opera™

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